

# **COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

## **CABLE ADDRESS:**

COLIAFAM

(212) 490-1490

September 18, 1970

## **Co-chairmen:**

Dave Dellinger

Cora Weiss

## **Treasurer:**

Mrs. Anne Bennett

## **Committee**

Richard J. Barnett

Rennie Davis

Madeline Duckles

Prof. Richard Falk

Rev. Richard Fernandez

Norman Fruchter

\*Maggie Geddes

Steve Halliwell

Prof. Donald Kalish

Stewart Meacham

Prof. Bea Seitzman

Prof. Franz Schurmann

Ethel Taylor

\*Barbara Webster

Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Friends,

We are very happy to forward the enclosed letters to you. I would like to give you an account of the events that took place around the illegal seizure of these letters at Kennedy Airport on Wednesday. You would have had your mail a day or two earlier had it not been for this interference.

Robert Scheer announced when he left Hanoi that he had been given 379 letters from pilots whose names appeared on the list of 335 previously confirmed prisoners. Mr. Scheer, with a delegation of 10, had spent three months in Algeria, North Korea, China, and North Vietnam, and had accumulated a wide range of materials. However, U.S. Customs officials at Kennedy Airport were interested only in the whereabouts of the letters. Mr. Scheer opened the two packets of letters for the Customs officials to see. They then took him into a private room and demanded that he turn over the mail, saying, "We must open it and read it." He refused to hand over the letters as they had been consigned to him for immediate delivery to families. Finally, the Customs officials agreed to place the letters in bond, where the packages were officially sealed and a receipt given to Mr. Scheer.

(Last Saturday 143 letters were brought by a traveller returning from Hanoi. That brought to 1243 the number of letters from prisoners that have been delivered by hand to the U.S. without interference.)

No explanation has been offered by anyone for the seizure of the mail, and no guarantees have been made that this will not happen again. On Thursday afternoon the State Department assured me that the mail was available to be claimed and expressed concern that it be forwarded immediately to relieve anxiety of waiting families. We reminded the State Department that it was the government that had seized the mail in seeming disregard for the families, prisoners, and the future of communication between them. Mr. Scheer offered to meet with representatives of the State Department at the airport to discuss the situation and see what could be done to prevent future occurrences of this nature. His request was rejected. When he went with Rennie Davis and myself to reclaim the mail, he was unnecessarily harrassed, and the press was ejected from observing the reclamation, despite the fact that the very same people had observed the seizure. When he finally got the letters, Mr. Scheer immediately transferred them to the Committee of Liaison for distribution.

We are very distressed about this incident. This delivery of mail brought first letters from previously confirmed prisoners for four families, some of whom had had no mail for five years. We have devoted considerable time and effort to maintaining a reliable and efficient channel for communication between you and the pilots. At the initiative of the North Vietnamese both the volume and frequency of mail has increased. The pilots have been receiving increasing numbers of packages, including a wide assortment of food, medicines, clothing and various kinds of games. We are not responsible for the consequences that acts of governmental interference may produce.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with us if you have any questions, and kindly inform us of any changes of address. Should you wish us to forward mail to your relatives in North Vietnam we will be glad to do so. There will be several people travelling there in the coming months.

Sincerely yours,

*Cora Weiss*  
Cora Weiss

RE: COLIFAM

On November 3, 1970, [REDACTED] advised that on that date he received the following communications from COLIFAM:

1) Letter dated November 30, 1970, signed "CORA WEISS".

2) A reprint from the "Center Report October 1970" entitled "Prisoners of War in Vietnam".

3) An article by JON M. VAN DYKE entitled "Were They Tortured?"

[REDACTED] said he made the handwritten notations on these communications. He added that on November 3, 1970, he sent a letter to COLIFAM asking COLIFAM to forward a six-line letter to his son.

Set forth is a copy of the above described three communications.

## COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

### *with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036 212 (549 4478)

October 30, 1970

(212) 765-1430

#### CABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

#### Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger

Cora Weiss

#### Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

#### Committee

Richard J. Barnett

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Stewart Meacham

Prof. Ben Seitzman

Prof. Franz Schurman

Ethel Taylor

\*Barbara Webster

Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear families,

This letter is being sent to all families of confirmed prisoners of war in North Vietnam as a general information memo to respond to the many questions we have received in recent weeks. Kindly excuse the form, but so many of your concerns are similar that we thought this more efficient. We are enclosing air letters for your use. One letter a month is still allowed. Kindly seal all letters sent thru the Committee of Liaison, and staple or clip photos inside the letter form. We have no interest in seeing mail.

A delegation of lawyers is leaving shortly for a visit to the DRV. They have expressed willingness to carry mail with them. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity should have mail in our office no later than Nov. 7. We guarantee only that the mail will arrive safely in North Vietnam and will be delivered to the appropriate authorities.

We have no way of guaranteeing that the prisoners will get each letter. That is beyond our ability. However, if the mail conforms to the regulations we have no reason to doubt its delivery. We believe that from what we have been told by families, there is some delay, even risk, in sending mail thru postal routes. Much of the mail sent has obviously gotten thru, but some has been returned, or may wait for long periods for irregular flights. The Vietnamese are using hand delivery only for getting mail to the US because of the risky and unpredictable postal channels. Mail has been delayed and has taken months to arrive. They now wait for delegations to bring it.

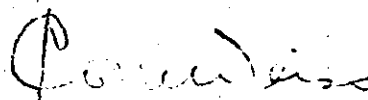
Last month we sent 250 letters to North Vietnam with a group. All mail presently in the office will be delivered with the next group. As of now, over 1600 letters have been received since Dec. We do not know why some men have written more frequently than others. We also do not know if the list of 335 men announced in April is final for those being held by the North Vietnamese. When asked by family members, we have inquired about specific servicemen for whom there is substantial evidence of their capture. When we have a reply we will, of course, let the families know. It is our understanding that until there is some movement in Paris to respond to the proposals put forward by Mme. Binh on Sept. 17, there will be no further move vis-a-vis POW's. That is, until the two conditions are met, setting a fixed date for

the total withdrawal of all US forces from Vietnam, and agreeing to withdraw support from the Thieu Ky Khiem regime, they will not be willing to discuss the prisoner issue. They have made it clear that they view this issue as part of the overall solution to the war, and it cannot be dealt with separately. Upon fixing that date and agreeing to withdraw support, prisoners from both DRV as well as those being held by the NLF in the South, will be released. They do not have to wait for the completion of withdrawal of troops.

Many articles, comics, newsletters have appeared on the subject of prisoners. We thought you might be interested in seeing the enclosed which may shed more light on this subject. Mr. Van Dyke is an international lawyer currently on staff at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Santa Barbara, Calif. He was formerly employed in the State Department working on the matter of prisoners. We send these along because they provide facts and a point of view not frequently seen in a discussion of this topic.

We appreciate being kept informed as to your changes of address, and continue to welcome your questions. We hope you continue to remember that we are here, not there, have no authority in handling prisoner affairs, and have tried to maintain a clear and efficient and reliable channel for communication between you and your sons and husbands. We look forward to the end of our task, for that will represent America's agreement to conclude the war and the release of the prisoners.

Sincerely yours



Mrs. Cora Weiss

P.S. We expect other delegations will be invited to North Vietnam in December and through the winter months. Any mail arriving after Nov. 7 will be held for the next group.

Jon M. Van Dyke:

## PRISONERS OF WAR IN VIETNAM

(ED. NOTE: The following excerpts are drawn from a paper which Visiting Fellow Jon M. Van Dyke presented for discussion at a recent Center roundtable.)

For the past year and a half, the U.S. has condemned the North Vietnamese for their treatment of captured Americans. The North Vietnamese are portrayed as evil captors who unrelentingly harass American prisoners. The American prisoners are portrayed as virtuous men who find themselves in North Vietnamese prisons through an unfortunate and totally fortuitous series of events. The "prisoner-of-war problem" is depicted as an issue unrelated to the bombing and fighting that have been taking place in various parts of Southeast Asia throughout the past decade.

Although this effort succeeded in persuading the North Vietnamese to adhere more closely to the formal requirements of the Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War, it is based on two false premises: (1) that the Geneva Convention can be applied without difficulty to the conflict in Vietnam and (2) that the United States and its allies conform to the requirements of the Convention. (The Geneva Convention was drafted in 1949 to deal with the problems of conventional warfare on European battlefields. It is difficult, if not impossible, to apply these provisions to a guerrilla war in Southeast Asia.)

The United States pays only minimal attention to the Convention when it is not in its interest to do so. American soldiers frequently torture captured Viet Cong in order to obtain information about nearby enemy units. Even more frequently, the U.S. permits the Saigon forces to torture prisoners after capture and throughout their period of captivity. The U.S. has failed to punish in any significant way soldiers who have killed or mistreated enemy captives, thus elevating this practice to an official policy. The U.S. also conducts a program of terror to eliminate Viet Cong political cadre a program that operates with total dis-

regard for the safeguards of the Geneva Convention. Finally, because of its desire to give the American public the bleakest possible view of what the enemy's prison camps are like, the Pentagon has muzzled freed Americans who want to talk about the experiences they had in captivity.

The furor that has been created over North Vietnam's prison camps is understandable from a human point of view. There are men in prison who have been separated from their families for a period longer than in any previous war the United States has been involved in. One man has now been in Hanoi over six years.

The furor nonetheless does an injustice to the North Vietnamese, who have probably treated their captives better than any other nation fighting in Asia during this century. During World War II, prisoners of war in Asia were killed and allowed to die with little remorse. Twenty-seven percent of the prisoners held by the Japanese during that war died, and a shockingly high percentage of the Japanese held in Allied camps failed to survive captivity. The treatment of prisoners during the Korean war was, at best, primitive. And the handling of captives by the United States and the Saigon government is in many respects worse than that of North Vietnam and the Viet Cong.

It is in this perspective that North Vietnam's prison camps must be analyzed. The most serious charges lodged against the North Vietnamese are the accusations of physical abuse brought back by two pilots a year ago. These charges are serious indeed, but the manner in which the Pentagon has handled public information about North Vietnam's camps makes it difficult to accept the statements at face value. The other seven pilots who have been released by North Vietnam have never been formally pre-

Reprinted from the CENTER REPORT Oct. 1970

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10024

sented to the press. In fact, they have all been told that it would not be beneficial to their military careers to say anything that would interfere with the government's attempts to put pressure on North Vietnam.

ABC News was finally able to persuade another of the freed pilots to speak last month and he gave quite a different picture of North Vietnam's prison camps. Air Force Captain Joe V. Carpenter said that he had been pushed around a bit when first captured, and was kept separate from the other prisoners, but that he had not suffered in any significant fashion. Physical conditions were not too bad, and he was able to make friends with the North Vietnamese who lived in the neighborhood of his cell.

The complaints lodged against the treatment of prisoners by the Viet Cong in South Vietnam mostly concern the extremely austere lodging and food. Many Viet Cong units are constantly on the run, so that until a prisoner can be taken to a secure area, the prisoner must also be constantly moving. Even in a secure area, the prisoner — like everyone else who lives in the area — must always be on guard for American bombing attacks.

Considering these difficulties, the treatment given to prisoners by the Viet Cong is probably as good as could ever be provided by a revolutionary army. Many of the Americans who have spent time in Viet Cong prisons during the last two years have, in fact, commended the enemy for the treatment received.

In November, 1969, three young GI's who had been prisoners for periods ranging from eight months to two years were released by the V.C. After they were transported to an Air Force Base in Japan, they were displayed to the press for fifteen minutes and proceeded to praise the Viet Cong for their treatment. Private Coy R. Tinsley of Cleveland, Tennessee, said, "I'd have to think twice before I'd fight them again after what they did for me. I was wounded. They took real good care of me."

The Army reacted typically to these stories of Viet Cong kindness. High officials decreed in January, 1970, that all soldiers subsequently



Jon M. Van Dike, a Center Visiting Fellow, was, until recently, assistant professor of law at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. With four other law professors, he prepared a brief supporting Massachusetts' statute attacking the constitutionality of the Vietnam war. It was filed with the Supreme Court in August.

released from enemy prisons would be kept from the press until they had undergone extensive debriefings both in Vietnam and the United States and had gone through a "readjustment" period. The U.P.I. quoted informed military sources as saying that exceptions may be made if the former prisoner is found in his early debriefings to be hostile toward his captors.

The spotlight must be focused on U.S. — Saigon treatment in order to gain perspective on the relative merits of North Vietnam's handling of prisoners.

There are six formal P.O.W. camps run by the Saigon government, with the assistance of U.S. advisers, containing some 33,000 men. These camps are subjected to scheduled and unscheduled inspection by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and they do conform to the Convention's requirements. Many of the Viet Cong who were captured never, however, make it to these formal camps.

There have been a number of trials during the past year of American G.I.s accused of killing Viet Cong prisoners. Despite uncontradicted eye-witness testimony, all of the accused have been acquitted or given extremely lenient penalties. These acquittals must be based on the knowledge of the officers on the court-martial panels that killing of prisoners take place among U.S.

forces in South Vietnam all the time, and the media has confirmed that this is true. Television crewmen have frequently taken film of interrogators torturing suspects, and newsmen have photographed captives being pushed out of American helicopters.

Another large block of captives are deemed not to qualify for formal P.O.W. status by the overly-strict standards used by the United States and the Saigon governments, and they wind up in miserable South Vietnamese civilian prisons.

After the International Committee of the Red Cross visited one of these civilian prisons earlier this year — at Con Son Island, with its famous "tiger cages" — they found a group of prisoners of war from North Vietnam and discovered that they were mistreated in the following respects: they were never allowed out of their cells; they were strapped in irons every night from five in the evening to six in the morning; they were permitted to wash only twice a week; they were not given enough fresh food or water; and they were only rarely given fresh clothes.

Subsequently Dr. Marjorie Nelson told the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations that she had regularly treated the victims of beatings and torture inflicted in a South Vietnamese interrogation center that had an American adviser. She said prisoners came to her after "being tortured by electricity with wires attached to ears, nipples and genitalia; being forced to drink concoctions containing powdered lime and other noxious substances; and being tied up and suspended by ropes upside down from the rafters for hours."

The United States government and its allies participate in such atrocities without much apparent concern, while at the same time condemning North Vietnam for its relatively tolerable prisoner treatment.

## WERE THEY TORTURED?

**JON M. VAN DYKE**

*Mr. Van Dyke, assistant professor of law at Catholic University, Washington, D.C., is now on leave of absence doing legal research in San Francisco. He is the author of North Vietnam's Strategy for Survival, to be published this year by Pacific Books.*

Two of the American fighting men most recently released from North Vietnam held a press conference in early September to "blow the whistle" on North Vietnam's treatment of its prisoners, but their statements raised more questions than they answered—questions not only about North Vietnam's handling of its captives but also about how the Pentagon is using the released men.

At the elaborately staged press conference in the auditorium of the Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Navy Lieut. Robert F. Frishman and Apprentice Seaman Douglas B. Hegdahl said they had been tortured, by being put in small, ovenlike rooms and exposed to mosquitoes and rats. They also asserted that they had heard that other prisoners had received even worse treatment.

Until this press conference the authorities had not permitted any of the nine freed prisoners to give the press more than the most general information about their experiences. Wives of the pilots still in North Vietnam have similarly been discouraged from talking about the letters they receive from prison. The Defense Department's explanation of this muzzling has been that public discussions might dissuade Hanoi from releasing pilots in the future or cause them to retaliate against those remaining in prison.

After the torture-chamber tales of Frishman and Hegdahl, it seems hard to imagine how additional discussion could jeopardize the pilots remaining in North Vietnam, but the day after the press conference, officers of the Pentagon's Public Information Division phoned the seven other released pilots and told them to stay quiet.

Most of the seven followed these instructions and have continued to elude reporters. However, one pilot who was released in August 1968, Maj. Joe V. Carpenter, expressed surprise at the statements made by Frishman and Hegdahl. Although he would not go into any details because of the orders, Carpenter said he had not been tortured in North Vietnam nor had he heard of anyone being tortured. "In general," he stated, "my treatment was good." When asked why the Defense Department would not allow him to speak freely even after the press conference, Carpenter responded, "It's all part of a plan." The question inevitably arises: what plan?

Aside from the issue of the Pentagon's motives, the details given by Frishman and Hegdahl raise some doubts about their broad charge of "torture." The only first-hand examples they mentioned in their prepared statements were (1) being placed in solitary confinement in small rat-infested rooms with tin roofs which became inordinately hot; and (2) being exposed to mosquitoes which bit their legs until they swelled. These episodes, while certainly unpleasant, are different only in degree from the

treatment the United States Army gave the Green Beret officers who are charged in the recent slaying of a Vietnamese counterspy. They were placed in solitary confinement in 5 by 7 foot cells with no toilet facilities and only a bare light bulb inadequate for reading. The Green Beret officers complained that their cells became inordinately hot.

Frishman and Hegdahl supported their charge of torture by giving examples of more serious physical harassment suffered by two other pilots. They said that Navy Lieut. Comdr. Richard A. Stratton, who made a well-publicized confession in March 1967, gave his statement only after having been strung up by his wrists and having his fingernails pulled out.

The confession was delivered through a loud-speaker to a Hanoi press conference at which one American photographer and a Japanese television crew were present. An American voice from behind a curtain gave a long statement about the war. When this was completed Stratton appeared from behind the curtain. He bowed deeply several times and then left without speaking. When the American photographer reported this scene, the United States protested that its pilots were being brainwashed, a charge which Frishman and Hegdahl now endorse.

It is hard to believe that Stratton actually had his fingernails pulled out, however, when none of the many persons who have seen him have reported physical harm. Because of the storm of protests which followed Stratton's "confession," North Vietnam invited many visitors, including Americans, to meet Stratton. Nobody reported seeing any scars or missing fingernails. Pictures taken of Stratton when he appeared from behind the curtain show that his hands were visible to the reporters, none of whom reported any injury. Pictures taken of Stratton in prison later show him to be a bit downcast, but in good health.

The second example offered by Frishman and Hegdahl was Navy Lieut. Comdr. John S. McCain III, son of the American Commander in the Pacific. McCain was injured quite severely when he landed in a lake in the heart of Hanoi after trying to bomb the city's main power plant on October 26, 1967. According to the two returned pilots, McCain has been kept in solitary confinement during most of his captivity. "It's hard enough just being in solitary confinement," Frishman said, "but when you're wounded like John it's harder." Frishman made no complaint that McCain had actually been physically hurt by the North Vietnamese, so it is difficult to understand why this is an example of torture. Furthermore, McCain was not kept in solitary confinement during the first six months of his captivity when his injuries were most severe. Air Force Lieut. Col. Norris M. Overly said after his release in February 1968 that he had shared a room with McCain.

There are other reasons for wondering about the charges made by Frishman and Hegdahl:

(1) None of the prisoners who had been released earlier complained of unprovoked physical mistreatment. Navy



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Lieut. David P. Matheny, who was freed in February 1968, said that he was beaten on one occasion but only after he had struck a guard. The other pilots, both in the limited public statements they have made and in private discussions with government officials, have uniformly described their treatment as decent. Air Force Maj. Fred N. Thompson, released in August 1968, said that he was obliged to participate in formal interrogation several times, but that the North Vietnamese did not use any threats or pressure during their questioning. When Thompson told his interrogator that a question involved classified matter, the interrogator dropped the subject.

(2) Frishman and Hegdahl gave no hint to the Americans who accompanied them from Hanoi that they had suffered physical mistreatment. Rennie Davis, the leader of the group, said he had long and frank discussions with the men and that they had said nothing about being tortured. Only after the pilots had gone through extensive debriefings did they tell their torture stories.

(3) Hegdahl is a man of limited experience and training who suffered greatly while in North Vietnam, not because of the conditions of prison life but because of his inability to adjust to a situation of confinement. One of the few prisoners who was not shot down while bombing North Vietnam, Hegdahl was captured in the South China Sea after falling off the U.S.S. *Canberra* while it was maneuvering to evade shelling from the North Vietnamese shore. He had grown up in a small town in South Dakota, had enlisted in the Navy at an early age, was only 20 when captured in 1967, and had received none of the conditioning that pilots are given. According to Maj. James F. Low, who had shared a room with Hegdahl for a while before his own release in August 1968, Hegdahl was in a distressed mental state and it was very difficult to live with him. Hegdahl may, therefore, not be the most reliable of commentators on North Vietnam's prisons.

(4) The Pentagon's previous conduct regarding released prisoners has failed to produce a record that inspires trust. After the first group of three pilots was released in February 1968, the Pentagon, with the active assistance of William H. Sullivan, then ambassador to Laos, persuaded the pilots to return to the United States on a military plane, despite the express desire of North Vietnam that the representatives of the U.S. peace movement who had received the prisoners in Hanoi be allowed to accompany them on commercial flights all the way home. (See *The Nation*, April 1, 1968.) No additional prisoners were released until the United States promised to allow them to return on commercial flights. An even more serious breach of the spirit of North Vietnam's releases occurred in the fall of 1968 when the Air Force assigned two of the three pilots freed in August 1968 to teach other pilots to fly and bomb. It costs about \$300,000 to train a jet fighter pilot, and the North Vietnamese did not like the thought that they were saving the Pentagon money by releasing future teachers. A member of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris complained to Averell Harriman in December 1968, and he arranged for the pilots to be assigned to other duties. Because of this incident North Vietnam apparently canceled a release it had scheduled for early 1969. Rennie Davis

thinks that, by urging Frishman and Hegdahl to make their statements, the Pentagon has discouraged similar gestures by Hanoi in the future.

There are, of course, grounds for criticizing the treatment of American prisoners. North Vietnam refuses to release the names of even the total number of Americans it holds, insisting that this is a state secret which it wishes to retain for bargaining purposes in future negotiations. Partly to keep the number of captive pilots secret, North Vietnam refuses to allow many to write to their relatives. At least 388 and perhaps as many as 800 prisoners are held in North Vietnam. Fewer than 100 have been allowed to write home, and those 100 have written a total of only 600 letters. Also, perhaps, to keep the number secret, many prisoners are held in solitary confinement. This treatment is a clear violation of the requirements of the 1949 Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War (which North Vietnam signed in 1957) and it has had a demoralizing effect on many of the pilots. But until Frishman and Hegdahl spoke, that was all.

However, because the first six pilots who were released had all been in prison for less than eight months, because the prisoners whom Hanoi displayed to reporters tended to be the same ones again and again, and because many of the prisoners have yet to be identified, some U.S. officials devised the "Two Groups" theory. They surmised that North Vietnam treated some prisoners well, so that they would tell the world that the prisons were humane, and so that they could be sent home in good shape when the occasion suited, but that another group was kept in the background and treated badly. The release of Hegdahl after twenty-eight months, and of Frishman after twenty-one months, disrupted this theory, particularly when the two prisoners claimed mistreatment.

Shortly after the Frishman-Hegdahl press conference, some officials at the CIA expanded upon the "Two Groups" idea to suggest that the prisoners may be kept in three separate places. According to this theory, one camp holds those prisoners who cooperate, another those who are unusually difficult, and the third those who are neither cooperative nor difficult. This might explain the difference in treatment reported by the various pilots who have returned, but it poses another question: why would North Vietnam release prisoners who had been tortured?

Another explanation of the difference in treatment was offered by Frishman himself. He said that what he called "torture" may be the doings of jailers who act without the knowledge of North Vietnam's leaders. Frishman stated, as an example, that his conditions improved whenever a North Vietnamese general visited the camp.

North Vietnam's treatment of its prisoners and its method of choosing those it releases may be puzzling, but the behavior of the United States toward those who have been freed is at least as mysterious. After ordering all the released pilots to say nothing, the Pentagon has allowed two of them to tell melodramatic stories, while demanding continuing silence of the others. Before the accounts by Frishman and Hegdahl can be accepted, the other freed prisoners must be allowed to tell their stories.

RE: COLIFAM

301-81-~  
b2c

On November 20, 1970, [REDACTED] advised that on November 17, 1970, he received an undated letter from COLIFAM signed "CORA WEISS". This letter enclosed a note from [REDACTED] son.

Set forth is a copy of this letter from COLIFAM

~~COMITTEE OF LIAISON~~

with FAMILIES of SERVICEMEN DETAINED in NORTH VIETNAM

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 549-4477

Dear Families,

201-1-120

We are very happy to forward the enclosed mail to you-  
It was brought by Prof. Sidney Peck in a package of 571 letters  
written over a 3 month period by most of the known prisoners.

We have also been informed by the Vietnamese regarding  
Christmas mail and packages:

While usually packages of 6lbs are allowed every other  
month, one package of 11 lbs for Xmas/New Years will  
be permitted. The package should be addressed to:  
Name of Servicemen, Serial #, c/o Camp of Detention  
for Servicemen captured in DRV, Hanoi, DRV. VIA MOSCOW.  
Any other means will not be acceptable. Care must be  
taken to send items which will not spoil & will survive  
a long trip of many changes of temperature, and rough  
handling.

Re Mail: We have been asked to gather all Xmas & New  
Year cards and deliver them in person. Therefore your

cards should be in our office the first week of Dec.

Today's mail brought letters from three pilots who have  
appeared on previously published confirmed lists, but who are  
writing letters for the first time.

Additionally we have received official confirmation for the  
first time of 3 more servicemen, bringing the total of known  
prisoners, at this time to 338.

We also received a response to recent inquiries we have made on behalf of families regarding the status of relatives listed as "MIA". We learned that of 17 inquiries made, regrettably 6 pilots who had been captured are dead. One pilot who was known to have been captured but not listed is now confirmed a prisoner. And 10 who were thought to be captured have "Never been captured in North Vietnam."

We are very pleased to be able to maintain the only open and successful channel of communication between families and detained servicemen.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank the many families who have sent kind notes and contributions.

We extend to each of you our best wishes for the holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cora Weiss". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mrs. Cora Weiss

RE: COLIFAM

*COL-41-67c*

On November 27, 1970, [REDACTED] advised he received a letter from COLIFAM dated November 23, 1970, signed "BARBARA WEBSTER". This letter enclosed a note from [REDACTED] son. The notations on this letter were handwritten by [REDACTED]

Set forth is a copy of this letter from COLIFAM.

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 549-4478

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Coro Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

## Committee

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Holliswell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

November 23, 1970

Dear friends:

Last night the lawyers who visited North Vietnam returned, bringing a packet of 326 letters from 297 pilots. One of them, Morton Stavis of the Lawyers Committee on American Policy Towards Vietnam, gave us the following report from his conversations there:

"The authorities told me that they receive many 'provocative' packages and letters. Examples they gave were packages containing pieces of iron and metal objects; clothes that are too small (based on the erroneous assumption that the men have lost a lot of weight); letters which don't stick to the rules regarding contents (this makes it more difficult to sort and sometimes impossible to deliver).

They told me that many letters coming as a result of provocative and unfriendly campaigns in the U.S. are clogging the postal channels, making it extremely difficult for legitimate mail to be sorted and delivered.

This is not the case for mail sent by hand."

The North Vietnamese have confirmed directly to the Committee of Liaison that a detention camp was hit in the recent bombings by the U.S., and some casualties were sustained. Should we receive further details we will be in touch with the families involved.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Webster Barbara Webster

RE: COLIFAM

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 12/27/70

Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam organized and run by antiwar leaders such as Cora Weiss and David Dellinger. New York instructed not to have Special Agents cover press conference where reportedly additional prisoners of war names to be released but to accomplish this through established sources.

Information concerning travel and press conference disseminated by teletype to Dr. Kissinger at the White House, Vice President, State, CIA, Military intelligence agencies and the Department.

*EO 12812*

*h c*

*2393-9803*  
*POW/mia EO 12812*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE



FBI

Date 12/15/70

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

FROM: SAC, WFO (100-50739) (RUC)

FO 100-100-  
b7c

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN  
DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM  
(COLIFAM)  
IS-REGISTRATION ACT  
(OO:NY)

RECEIVED  
FEB 11 1971  
FBI  
POW/MIA EO 12812

ReBu R/S to WFO and NY, dated 12/2/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are nine (9) copies of  
an LHM dated and captioned as above. Enclosed for New York  
are two (2) copies of the same LHM.

The representative of the FBI who conducted the  
interview with [REDACTED]  
WMOD Radio, 1680 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.  
(WDC), was SA [REDACTED]

1cc 457899 3 destroyed  
AGENCY: ARMY, ONI, OSI, [REDACTED]

REC 27 100-457899-727

MAILED 11/17/71  
DATE FORW. 11/17/71  
HOW FORW. [REDACTED]

6 JAN 5 1971

CLOSURE

- 2 - Bureau (Encl. 9)  
2 - New York (100-168469) (Encl. 2) (RM)  
1 - WFO

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

B. J. Robert Kunkel  
Special Agent in Charge

Per



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Washington, D. C. 20535  
December 15, 1970

722-93-9803  
POW/MIA EO 12812

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF  
SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM  
(COLIFAM)**

On December 8, 1970, a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), interviewed [REDACTED] WMOD Radio, 1680 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C., concerning the possibility that WMOD had aired an announcement sponsored by the captioned group. After reviewing the records of WMOD, [REDACTED] advised that he has never heard of COLIFAM, or any of its individual members, nor had they ever sponsored any announcement on WMOD. The radio station has aired several public service "mail early" type spot announcements in an effort to help speed up the delivery of Christmas mail, but none of these releases contained any references to United States prisoners of war being held by the North Vietnamese Government.

[REDACTED] stated that had there been any broadcast which contained reference to the captioned group, it may have been in connection with a news broadcast. If a news broadcast was the origin of the airing of any information concerning COLIFAM, WMOD would not have any record of that fact. The station obtains its news material from the various wire services, and as it is reported the copy is destroyed, and no permanent copy is retained in station files.

COLIFAM publicly describes itself as a group of anti-war individuals who have contacted the Government of North Vietnam, on a personal basis, in an effort to gain information concerning American prisoners of war being held in North Vietnam.

This document contains neither  
recommendations nor conclusions of  
the FBI. It is the property of  
the FBI and is loaned to your agency.  
It and its contents are not to be  
distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

1\*  
ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)  
[REDACTED] 601-81-2 67c  
FROM : SAC, OKLAHOMA CITY (100-7938) -P-  
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH  
VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS - MISCELLANEOUS  
REGISTRATION ACT  
OO: NEW YORK

DATE: 12/28/70

7-23,931  
9803 [REDACTED] 601-81-2 67c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4/3/82 BY [REDACTED]

DATE 4/3/82 BY [REDACTED]

#220,673

Reference: New York airtel and LHM, 6/9/70; San Antonio letter to Bureau, 8/27/70; Bulet to Albany, 10/12/70; Oklahoma City airtels and LHMs, 7/1/70, and 8/13/70; Oklahoma City letters and LHMs 9/16/70, and 12/18/70.

Enclosed for Bureau are eleven copies, two copies to New York, of LHM concerning captioned matter.

Individuals interviewed as reported in enclosed LHM were advised interviews were being conducted in this investigation at the request of Assistant Attorney General J. WALTER YEAGLEY.

Oklahoma City Office will be alert for further identification of families of POWs in this Division not yet interviewed in this investigation.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION~~  
~~EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION~~  
~~EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION~~

4 LHM  
AGENCY: ARMY, DAH, OSI, SEC. SER., STATE, CIA

DATE FORW: 1/5/71  
HOW FORW: 815

REC 19

9 JAN 4 1971

- Bureau (Enc. - 11) (RM)  
New York (Enc. - 2) (RM)  
Oklahoma City

JAN 12 1971 Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

December 28, 1970

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED  
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

EO 12812-67c  
EO 12812  
9103 [REDACTED] 2393 POW  
9803 [REDACTED] 3-30-93 MIA-POW spouse  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9/13/82 BY [REDACTED]  
#220,673

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE~~

This document contains neither recommendations nor  
conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI,  
and is loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are  
not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 12/28/70

*801-n-67c*

On December 15, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] advised as follows:

She is the wife of [REDACTED] in the United States Air Force, who is a Prisoner of War (POW) in North Vietnam, having been captured on [REDACTED] 1965.

Approximately three years ago, Mrs. [REDACTED] began receiving mail from the "Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam" (COLIFAM) concerning her husband, [REDACTED]. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that also approximately three years ago she received a long distance telephone call from RENNIE DAVIS who indicated he was calling from Chicago, Illinois. Mr. DAVIS asked Mrs. [REDACTED] if she would be willing to permit Time magazine to print the contents of a letter she had received from her husband. She stated she declined to authorize this action inasmuch as this particular letter from her husband indicated POW conditions in a rather favorable light and she was not at all sure that it was a true representation of actual conditions. She stated that approximately on the same date, she also received a long distance telephone call from a representative of Time magazine making the same request to print the letter from her husband. Mrs. [REDACTED] also refused this request. She explained that she does not now recall whether the call from Time magazine followed Mr. DAVIS's request or whether it preceded his request. She does recall that Mr. DAVIS did not try to influence her decision in this matter. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she does not recall the actual contents of the letter from her husband, but does specifically recall it presented a rather favorable picture of prisoner conditions in North Vietnam.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated some of the correspondence received by her from COLIFAM included letters from her husband and others did not contain such letters. All of the correspondence from COLIFAM received by Mrs. [REDACTED] was sent through the regular mails.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she is skeptical of COLIFAM's intentions and resents their slurs against the United States Government.

On 12/15 and 16/70 at [REDACTED] Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 100-7938  
 by SA [REDACTED] *801-n-67c* Date dictated 12/21/70

CC 100-7938  
2.

*B012412-720*

and therefore, she has never acknowledged to COLIFAM the receipt of mail from them or otherwise contacted them. She stated she and [REDACTED] have five sons and as she is busy making a home for them, she has not become involved in any organizations such as the POW wives who have traveled to France to attempt to influence the North Vietnam authorities.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated COLIFAM has never threatened or cajoled her in any of their correspondence to her.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she has destroyed some of the correspondence received from COLIFAM, but has put some aside to show her husband when he returns. Upon checking her correspondence, Mrs. [REDACTED] furnished the following correspondence for reproduction purposes, stating she would make a further check on the night of December 15, 1970, for additional correspondence.

The correspondence furnished by Mrs. [REDACTED] on December 15, 1970, which was reproduced and copies of which are included in this memorandum is as follows:

- 1) A letter from COLIFAM dated May 4, 1970, which bears statement, "From: Rev. RICHARD FERNANDEZ;" a copy of COLIFAM "letter form" enclosed with this May 4, 1970, letter; the mailing envelope in which the above letter and "letter form" were enclosed which bears return address of COLIFAM but shows no postmark.
- 2) Letter from COLIFAM dated May 11, 1970, with mailing envelope bearing postmark at New York, New York, dated May 11, 1970.
- 3) A letter from COLIFAM dated May 13, 1970, together with the mailing envelope to Mrs. [REDACTED] from COLIFAM bearing postmark at New York, New York, dated May 13, 1970; two letters to Mrs. [REDACTED] from her POW husband dated October 12, 1969, and December 10, 1969, which were enclosed with the above May 13, 1970, letter.
- 4) A letter from COLIFAM bearing salutation, "Dear Friends" and dated September 14, 1970.
- 5) A letter from COLIFAM dated October 30, 1970, together with the mailing envelope which was postmarked October 31, 1970, at New York, New York; a COLIFAM "letter form"

enclosed with the above October 30, 1970, letter; a leaflet captioned "Prisoners of War in Vietnam" by JON M. VAN DYKE which is self-identified as being "re-printed from the Center Report, October, 1970," by COLIFAM; a leaflet entitled "Prisoners from Hanoi - Were They Tortured?" by JON M. VAN DYKE, which is self-identified as reprinted by COLIFAM from the October 6, 1969, issue of The Nation.

On December 16, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she had made a further check of her correspondence and the only additional letter from COLIFAM she could locate is a letter dated September 18, 1970. This letter from COLIFAM to Mrs. [REDACTED] was reproduced and it also is included in this memorandum.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she would be willing to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date.

FOI 201-2  
b7c

## COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

### *with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

36 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 100.

(212) 765-1490

#### CABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

May 4, 1970

#### Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

#### Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

#### Committee

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

#### \*staff

From: Rev. Richard Fernandez  
To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed prisoners held in North Vietnam  
Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their



families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

**NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)**

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LĨNH (Service number):

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NƯỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA  
VIA MOSCOW, USSR *(Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)*

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

**GỬI (Addressee)**

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

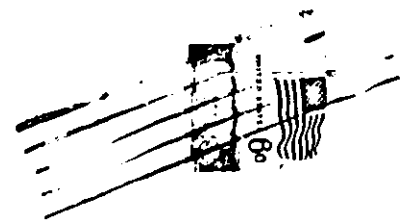
ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated) .....

**GHI CHÚ (N.B.):**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (*Write legibly and only on the lines*).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (*Write only about health and family*).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (*Letters from families should also conform to this proforma*).

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
365 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036



Mrs. [REDACTED]

Okla.

*Robert V. [unclear]*

# **COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

May 11, 1970

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear friend:

A delegation of anti-war activists has just returned from a 10-day trip to Hanoi. Charlotte Bunche-Weeks, Jerry Schwinn, Frank Joyce and Elizabeth Martinez brought 47 letters from prisoners with them and we are very happy to forward yours today.

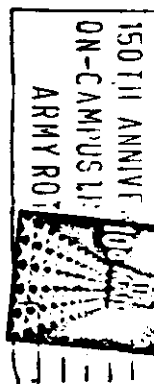
They also brought out additional suggestions for items which could be included in packages which we thought might be useful to you. Vitamins, minerals and protein are high on the list. Tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, body powder, foot powder, hard candies, coffee, sweeteners, tobacco, gum, instant breakfast, powdered sweet drinks, instant chocolate drink, tinned ham, peanut butter, cheese spreads, playing cards, travel chess-checkers sets, pipes, pipe cleaners. These are merely suggestions and packages, of course, are not limited to these items

The arrival of this mail brings the number of letters from prisoners sent out since December to 861.

Sincerely,

*Cora Weiss*  
Cora Weiss

ATR



7mo.

Alta.

Polvin-670

# **COMMITTEE      LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10030

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

May 13, 1970

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

Dear friend:

Today we received two packages of letters which we have been expecting from prisoners held in North Vietnam. The total number of letters in both packages was 156. Although the packages were mailed a month apart, they both arrived here today.

We are very happy to send herewith the letter addressed to you.

Sincerely,  
*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

\*staff

365 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

ALL

Miss

OKla.

201-812-272



SALVADOR  
FOLK  
IN MAY



NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)

FOI 812-  
b7c

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LĨNH (Service number):

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NƯỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA

(Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)

GỬI (Addressee)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

Mrs.

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

CRIMONA

U.S.A.

FOI 812-  
b7c

NGƯỜI GỬI (Addressor)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

SỐ LÍNH (Service number):

NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NƯỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA

(Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)

GỬI (Addressee)

HỌ TÊN (Name in full):

Mrs.

ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):

Oklahoma

U.S.A.

1301-842-62

[REDACTED]

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated) 12 October, 1964

**GHI CHÚ (N.B.):**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (*Write legibly and only on the lines*).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (*Write only about health and family*).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (*Letters from families should also conform to this proforma*).

B012812-  
67a

[REDACTED]

NGÀY VIẾT (Dated) 10 Dec., 1969.

**CHỈ CHÚ (N.B.):**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (*Write legibly and only on the lines*).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (*Write only about health and family*).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (*Letters from families should also conform to this proforma*).

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
365 West 42 Street, New York, N.Y. 10036  
212-KI9-4478

September 14 1970

Dear friends:

We are very happy to forward the enclosed letter to you which just arrived with 142 others from Hanoi. This is the first mail since June because no one has travelled to North Vietnam during the summer. The Vietnamese no longer rely on unpredictable postal channels as experience has proven it delayed and risky. Therefore, they wait for travellers to guarantee safe and rapid delivery.

We are also enclosing some letter forms for your convenience.

Visitors to North Vietnam usually let us know of their departure and are willing to take mail with them. A number of people are planning to go this fall and winter, and we would be happy to forward your mail for you. Kindly seal the letter forms, even if they contain photos, and do not affix stamps.

To ease some of the administrative difficulties in North Vietnam, including translation, you might consider typing your letters on the suggested letter form, with a clear signature.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with us, and kindly inform us of any changes in address to facilitate further forwarding of mail.

Sincerely,  
*Cora Weiss*  
Cora Weiss

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

October 30, 1970  
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

## CABLE ADDRESS:

COLIAFAM

Dear families,

## Co-chairmen:

Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

## Treasurer:

Mrs. Anne Bennett

## Committee

Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles

Prof. Richard Falk

Rev. Richard Fernandez

Norman Fruchter

\*Maggie Geddes

Steve Halliwell

Prof. Donald Kolish

Stewart Meacham

Prof. Bea Seitzman

Prof. Franz Schurman

Ethel Taylor

\*Barbara Webster

Trudi Young

\*staff

This letter is being sent to all families of confirmed prisoners of war in North Vietnam as a general information memo to respond to the many questions we have received in recent weeks. Kindly excuse the form, but so many of your concerns are similar that we thought this more efficient. We are enclosing air letters for your use. One letter a month is still allowed. Kindly seal all letters sent thru the Committee of Liaison, and staple or clip photos inside the letter form. We have no interest in seeing mail.

A delegation of lawyers is leaving shortly for a visit to the DRV. They have expressed willingness to carry mail with them. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this opportunity should have mail in our office no later than Nov. 7. We guarantee only that the mail will arrive safely in North Vietnam and will be delivered to the appropriate authorities. We have no way of guaranteeing that the prisoners will get each letter. That is beyond our ability. However, if the mail conforms to the regulations we have no reason to doubt its delivery. We believe that from what we have been told by families, there is some delay, even risk, in sending mail thru postal routes. Much of the mail sent has obviously gotten thru, but some has been returned, or may wait for long periods for irregular flights. The Vietnamese are using hand delivery only for getting mail to the US because of the risky and unpredictable postal channels. Mail has been delayed and has taken months to arrive. They now wait for delegations to bring it.

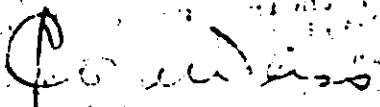
Last month we sent 250 letters to North Vietnam with a group. All mail presently in the office will be delivered with the next group. As of now, over 1600 letters have been received since Dec. We do not know why some men have written more frequently than others. We also do not know if the list of 335 men announced in April is final for those being held by the North Vietnamese. When asked by family members, we have inquired about specific servicemen for whom there is substantial evidence of their capture. When we have a reply we will, of course, let the families know. It is our understanding that until there is some movement in Paris to respond to the proposals put forward by me. Binh on Sept. 17, there will be no further move vis-a-vis POW's. That is, until the two conditions are met, setting a fixed date for

the total withdrawal of all US forces from Vietnam, and agreeing to withdraw support from the Thieu Ky Khiem regime, they will not be willing to discuss the prisoner issue. They have made it clear that they view this issue as part of the overall solution to the war, and it cannot be dealt with separately. Upon fixing that date and agreeing to withdraw support, prisoners from both DRV as well as those being held by the NLF in the South, will be released. They do not have to wait for the completion of withdrawal of troops.

Many articles, comics, newsletters have appeared on the subject of prisoners. We thought you might be interested in seeing the enclosed which may shed more light on this subject. Mr. Van Dyke is an international lawyer currently on staff at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Santa Barbara, Calif. He was formerly employed in the State Department working on the matter of prisoners. We send these along because they provide facts and a point of view not frequently seen in a discussion of this topic.

We appreciate being kept informed as to your changes of address, and continue to welcome your questions. We hope you continue to remember that we are here, not there, have no authority in handling prisoner affairs, and have tried to maintain a clear and efficient and reliable channel for communication between you and your sons and husbands. We look forward to the end of our task, for that will represent America's agreement to conclude the war and the release of the prisoners.

Sincerely yours

  
Mrs. Cora Weiss

P.S. We expect other delegations will be invited to North Vietnam in December and through the winter months. Any mail arriving after Nov. 7 will be held for the next group.

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON  
365 West 42nd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10036

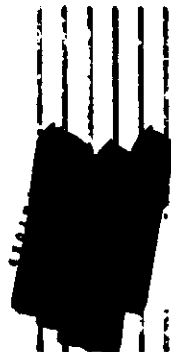
FIRST CLASS MAIL

EDMUN  
67c

MRS. [REDACTED]  
OKLA. [REDACTED]



EDMUN  
67c





**GỬI (Addressee)**

**HỌ TÊN (Name in full):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SỐ LÍNH (Service number):** \_\_\_\_\_

**NƠI VÀ NGÀY SINH (Date & place of birth):** \_\_\_\_\_

**ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):**

**TRẠI GIAM PHI CÔNG MỸ BỊ BẮT TẠI  
NƯỚC VIỆT - NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA  
VIA MOSCOW, USSR** *(Camp of detention for U.S. pilots captured  
in the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC of VIETNAM)*

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

**NGƯỜI GỬI (Addresser)**

**HỌ TÊN (Name in full):**

\_\_\_\_\_

**ĐỊA CHỈ (Address):**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**NGÀY VIẾT (Dated)**

**CHỈ CHÚ (N.B.):**

1. Phải viết rõ và chỉ được viết trên những dòng kẻ sẵn (*Write legibly and only on the lines*).
2. Trong thư chỉ được nói về tình hình sức khỏe và tình hình gia đình (*Write only about health and family*).
3. Gia đình gửi đến cũng phải theo đúng mẫu, khuôn khổ và quy định này (*Letters from families should also conform to this proforma*).

Jon M. Van Dyke:

## PRISONERS OF WAR IN VIETNAM

(ED. NOTE: The following excerpts are drawn from a paper which Visiting Fellow Jon M. Van Dyke presented for discussion at a recent Center roundtable.)

For the past year and a half, the U.S. has condemned the North Vietnamese for their treatment of captured Americans. The North Vietnamese are portrayed as evil captors who unrelentingly harass American prisoners. The American prisoners are portrayed as virtuous men who find themselves in North Vietnamese prisons through an unfortunate and totally fortuitous series of events. The "prisoner-of-war problem" is depicted as an issue unrelated to the bombing and fighting that have been taking place in various parts of Southeast Asia throughout the past decade.

Although this effort succeeded in persuading the North Vietnamese to adhere more closely to the formal requirements of the Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War, it is based on two false premises: (1) that the Geneva Convention can be applied without difficulty to the conflict in Vietnam and (2) that the United States and its allies conform to the requirements of the Convention. (The Geneva Convention was drafted in 1949 to deal with the problems of conventional warfare on European battlefields. It is difficult, if not impossible, to apply these provisions to a guerrilla war in Southeast Asia.)

The United States pays only minimal attention to the Convention when it is not in its interest to do so. American soldiers frequently torture captured Viet Cong in order to obtain information about nearby enemy units. Even more frequently, the U.S. permits the Saigon forces to torture prisoners after capture and throughout their period of captivity. The U.S. has failed to punish in any significant way soldiers who have killed or mistreated enemy captives, thus elevating this practice to an official policy. The U.S. also conducts a program of terror to eliminate Viet Cong political cadre a program that operates with total dis-

regard for the safeguards of the Geneva Convention. Finally, because of its desire to give the American public the bleakest possible view of what the enemy's prison camps are like, the Pentagon has muzzled freed Americans who want to talk about the experiences they had in captivity.

The furor that has been created over North Vietnam's prison camps is understandable from a human point of view. There are men in prison who have been separated from their families for a period longer than in any previous war the United States has been involved in. One man has now been in Hanoi over six years.

The furor nonetheless does an injustice to the North Vietnamese, who have probably treated their captives better than any other nation fighting in Asia during this century. During World War II, prisoners of war in Asia were killed and allowed to die with little remorse. Twenty-seven per cent of the prisoners held by the Japanese during that war died, and a shockingly high percentage of the Japanese held in Allied camps failed to survive captivity. The treatment of prisoners during the Korean war was, at best, primitive. And the handling of captives by the United States and the Saigon government is in many respects worse than that of North Vietnam and the Viet Cong.

It is in this perspective that North Vietnam's prison camps must be analyzed. The most serious charges lodged against the North Vietnamese are the accusations of physical abuse brought back by two pilots a year ago. These charges are serious indeed, but the manner in which the Pentagon has handled public information about North Vietnam's camps makes it difficult to accept the statements at face value. The other seven pilots who have been released by North Vietnam have never been formally pre-

Reprinted from the CENTER REPORT Oct. 1970

### COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

sent to the press. In fact, they have all been told that it would not be beneficial to their military careers to say anything that would interfere with the government's attempts to put pressure on North Vietnam.

ABC News was finally able to persuade another of the freed pilots to speak last month and he gave quite a different picture of North Vietnam's prison camps. Air Force Captain Joe V. Carpenter said that he had been pushed around a bit when first captured, and was kept separate from the other prisoners, but that he had not suffered in any significant fashion. Physical conditions were not too bad, and he was able to make friends with the North Vietnamese who lived in the neighborhood of his cell.

The complaints lodged against the treatment of prisoners by the Viet Cong in South Vietnam mostly concern the extremely austere lodging and food. Many Viet Cong units are constantly on the run, so that until a prisoner can be taken to a secure area, the prisoner must also be constantly moving. Even in a secure area, the prisoner — like everyone else who lives in the area — must always be on guard for American bombing attacks.

Considering these difficulties, the treatment given to prisoners by the Viet Cong is probably as good as could ever be provided by a revolutionary army. Many of the Americans who have spent time in Viet Cong prisons during the last two years have, in fact, commended the enemy for the treatment received.

In November, 1969, three young GI's who had been prisoners for periods ranging from eight months to two years were released by the V.C. After they were transported to an Air Force Base in Japan, they were displayed to the press for fifteen minutes and proceeded to praise the Viet Cong for their treatment. Private Coy R. Tinsley of Cleveland, Tennessee, said, "I'd have to think twice before I'd fight them again after what they did for me. I was wounded. They took real good care of me."

The Army reacted typically to these stories of Viet Cong kindness. High officials decreed in January, 1970, that all soldiers subsequently



*Jon M. Van Dyke, a Center Visiting Fellow, was, until recently, assistant professor of law at the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. With four other law professors, he prepared a brief supporting Massachusetts' statute attacking the constitutionality of the Vietnam war. It was filed with the Supreme Court in August.*

released from enemy prisons would be kept from the press until they had undergone extensive debriefings both in Vietnam and the United States and had gone through a "readjustment" period. The U.P.I. quoted informed military sources as saying that exceptions may be made if the former prisoner is found in his early debriefings to be hostile toward his captors.

The spotlight must be focused on U.S. — Saigon treatment in order to gain perspective on the relative merits of North Vietnam's handling of prisoners.

There are six formal P.O.W. camps run by the Saigon government, with the assistance of U.S. advisors, containing some 33,000 men. These camps are subjected to scheduled and unscheduled inspection by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and they do conform to the Convention's requirements. Many of the Viet Cong who were captured never, however, make it to these formal camps.

There have been a number of trials during the past year of American G.I.s accused of killing Viet Cong prisoners. Despite uncontradicted eye-witness testimony, all of the accused have been acquitted or given extremely lenient penalties. These acquittals must be based on the knowledge of the officers on the court-martial panels that killing of prisoners take place among U.S.

forces in South Vietnam all the time and the media has confirmed that it is true. Television crewmen have frequently taken film of interrogators torturing suspects, and newsmen have photographed captives being pushed out of American helicopters.

Another large block of captives is deemed not to qualify for formal P.O.W. status by the overly-stringent standards used by the United States and the Saigon governments, and they wind up in miserable South Vietnamese civilian prisons.

After the International Committee of the Red Cross visited one of the civilian prisons earlier this year — Con Son Island, with its famous "tiger cages" — they found a group of prisoners of war from North Vietnam and discovered that they were mistreated in the following respects: they were never allowed out of their cells; they were strapped in irons every night from five in the evening to six in the morning; they were permitted wash only twice a week; they were not given enough fresh food or water; and they were only rarely given fresh clothes.

Subsequently Dr. Marjorie Nelson told the House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations that she had regularly treated the victims of beatings and torture inflicted in a South Vietnamese interrogation center that had an American adviser. She said prisoners came to her after "being tortured with electricity with wires attached to ear nipples and genitalia; being forced to drink concoctions containing powdered lime and other noxious substances; and being tied up and suspended by ropes upside down from the rafters for hours."

The United States government and its allies participate in such atrocities without much apparent concern, while at the same time condemning North Vietnam for its relatively tolerant prisoner treatment.

# WERE THEY TORTURED?

**JON M. VAN DYKE**

*Mr. Van Dyke, assistant professor of law at Catholic University, Washington, D.C., is now on leave of absence doing legal research in San Francisco. He is the author of North Vietnam's Strategy for Survival, to be published this year by Pacific Books.*

Two of the American fighting men most recently released from North Vietnam held a press conference in early September to "blow the whistle" on North Vietnam's treatment of its prisoners, but their statements raised more questions than they answered—questions not only about North Vietnam's handling of its captives but also about how the Pentagon is using the released men.

At the elaborately staged press conference in the auditorium of the Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Navy Lieut. Robert F. Frishman and Apprentice Seaman Douglas B. Hegdahl said they had been tortured, by being put in small, ovenlike rooms and exposed to mosquitoes and rats. They also asserted that they had heard that other prisoners had received even worse treatment.

Until this press conference the authorities had not permitted any of the nine freed prisoners to give the press more than the most general information about their experiences. Wives of the pilots still in North Vietnam have similarly been discouraged from talking about the letters they receive from prison. The Defense Department's explanation of this muzzling has been that public discussions might dissuade Hanoi from releasing pilots in the future or cause them to retaliate against those remaining in prison.

After the torture-chamber tales of Frishman and Hegdahl, it seems hard to imagine how additional discussion could jeopardize the pilots remaining in North Vietnam, but the day after the press conference, officers of the Pentagon's Public Information Division phoned the seven other released pilots and told them to stay quiet.

Most of the seven followed these instructions and have continued to elude reporters. However, one pilot who was released in August 1968, Maj. Joe V. Carpenter, expressed surprise at the statements made by Frishman and Hegdahl. Although he would not go into any details because of the orders, Carpenter said he had not been tortured in North Vietnam nor had he heard of anyone being tortured. "In general," he stated, "my treatment was good." When asked why the Defense Department would not allow him to speak freely even after the press conference, Carpenter responded, "It's all part of a plan." The question inevitably arises: what plan?

Aside from the issue of the Pentagon's motives, the details given by Frishman and Hegdahl raise some doubts about their broad charge of "torture." The only first-hand examples they mentioned in their prepared statements were (1) being placed in solitary confinement in small rat-infested rooms with tin roofs which became inordinately hot; and (2) being exposed to mosquitoes which bit their legs until they swelled. These episodes, while certainly unpleasant, are different only in degree from the

treatment the United States Army gave the Green Beret officers who are charged in the recent slaying of a Vietnamese counterspy. They were placed in solitary confinement in 5 by 7 foot cells with no toilet facilities and only a bare light bulb inadequate for reading. The Green Beret officers complained that their cells became inordinately hot.

Frishman and Hegdahl supported their charge of torture by giving examples of more serious physical harassment suffered by two other pilots. They said that Navy Lieut. Comdr. Richard A. Stratton, who made a well-publicized confession in March 1967, gave his statement only after having been strung up by his wrists and having his fingernails pulled out.

The confession was delivered through a loud-speaker to a Hanoi press conference at which one American photographer and a Japanese television crew were present. An American voice from behind a curtain gave a long statement about the war. When this was completed Stratton appeared from behind the curtain. He bowed deeply several times and then left without speaking. When the American photographer reported this scene, the United States protested that its pilots were being brainwashed, a charge which Frishman and Hegdahl now endorse.

It is hard to believe that Stratton actually had his fingernails pulled out, however, when none of the many persons who have seen him have reported physical harm. Because of the storm of protests which followed Stratton's "confession," North Vietnam invited many visitors, including Americans, to meet Stratton. Nobody reported seeing any scars or missing fingernails. Pictures taken of Stratton when he appeared from behind the curtain show that his hands were visible to the reporters, none of whom reported any injury. Pictures taken of Stratton in prison later show him to be a bit downcast, but in good health.

The second example offered by Frishman and Hegdahl was Navy Lieut. Comdr. John S. McCain III, son of the American Commander in the Pacific. McCain was injured quite severely when he landed in a lake in the heart of Hanoi after trying to bomb the city's main power plant on October 26, 1967. According to the two returned pilots, McCain has been kept in solitary confinement during most of his captivity. "It's hard enough just being in solitary confinement," Frishman said, "but when you're wounded like John it's harder." Frishman made no complaint that McCain had actually been physically hurt by the North Vietnamese, so it is difficult to understand why this is an example of torture. Furthermore, McCain was not kept in solitary confinement during the first six months of his captivity when his injuries were most severe. Air Force Lieut. Col. Norris M. Overly said after his release in February 1968 that he had shared a room with McCain.

There are other reasons for wondering about the charges made by Frishman and Hegdahl:

(1) None of the prisoners who had been released earlier complained of unprovoked physical mistreatment. Navy

Lieut. David P. Matheney was freed in February 1968, said that he was beaten on the occasion but only after he had struck a guard. The other pilots, both in the limited public statements they have made and in private discussions with government officials, have uniformly described their treatment as decent. Air Force Maj. Fred N. Thompson, released in August 1968, said that he was obliged to participate in formal interrogation several times, but that the North Vietnamese did not use any threats or pressure during their questioning. When Thompson told his interrogator that a question involved classified matter, the interrogator dropped the subject.

(2) Frishman and Hegdahl gave no hint to the Americans who accompanied them from Hanoi that they had suffered physical mistreatment. Rennie Davis, the leader of the group, said he had long and frank discussions with the men and that they had said nothing about being tortured. Only after the pilots had gone through extensive debriefings did they tell their torture stories.

(3) Hegdahl is a man of limited experience and training who suffered greatly while in North Vietnam, not because of the conditions of prison life but because of his inability to adjust to a situation of confinement. One of the few prisoners who was not shot down while bombing North Vietnam, Hegdahl was captured in the South China Sea after falling off the U.S.S. *Cumherra* while it was maneuvering to evade shelling from the North Vietnamese shore. He had grown up in a small town in South Dakota, had enlisted in the Navy at an early age, was only 20 when captured in 1967, and had received none of the conditioning that pilots are given. According to Maj. James F. Low, who had shared a room with Hegdahl for a while before his own release in August 1968, Hegdahl was in a distressed mental state and it was very difficult to live with him. Hegdahl may, therefore, not be the most reliable of commentators on North Vietnam's prisons.

(4) The Pentagon's previous conduct regarding released prisoners has failed to produce a record that inspires trust. After the first group of three pilots was released in February 1968, the Pentagon, with the active assistance of William H. Sullivan, then ambassador to Laos, persuaded the pilots to return to the United States on a military plane, despite the express desire of North Vietnam that the representatives of the U.S. peace movement who had received the prisoners in Hanoi be allowed to accompany them on commercial flights all the way home. (See *The Nation*, April 1, 1968.) No additional prisoners were released until the United States promised to allow them to return on commercial flights. An even more serious breach of the spirit of North Vietnam's releases occurred in the fall of 1968 when the Air Force assigned two of the three pilots freed in August 1968 to teach other pilots to fly and bomb. It costs about \$300,000 to train a jet fighter pilot, and the North Vietnamese did not like the thought that they were saving the Pentagon money by releasing future teachers. A member of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris complained to Averell Harriman in December 1968, and he arranged for the pilots to be assigned to other duties. Because of this incident North Vietnam apparently canceled a release it had scheduled for early 1969. Rennie Davis

thinks that, by encouraging Frishman and Hegdahl to make their statements, the Pentagon has discouraged similar gestures in Hanoi in the future.

There are, of course, grounds for criticizing the treatment of American prisoners. North Vietnam refuses to release the names of even the total number of Americans it holds, insisting that this is a state secret which it wishes to retain for bargaining purposes in future negotiations. Partly to keep the number of captive pilots secret, North Vietnam refuses to allow many to write to their relatives. At least 388 and perhaps as many as 800 prisoners are held in North Vietnam. Fewer than 100 have been allowed to write home, and those 100 have written a total of only 600 letters. Also, perhaps, to keep the number secret, many prisoners are held in solitary confinement. This treatment is a clear violation of the requirements of the 1949 Geneva Convention on Prisoners of War (which North Vietnam signed in 1957) and it has had a demoralizing effect on many of the pilots. But until Frishman and Hegdahl spoke, that was all.

However, because the first six pilots who were released had all been in prison for less than eight months, because the prisoners whom Hanoi displayed to reporters tended to be the same ones again and again, and because many of the prisoners have yet to be identified, some U.S. officials devised the "Two Groups" theory. They surmised that North Vietnam treated some prisoners well, so that they would tell the world that the prisons were humane, and so that they could be sent home in good shape when the occasion suited, but that another group was kept in the background and treated badly. The release of Hegdahl after twenty-eight months, and of Frishman after twenty-one months, disrupted this theory, particularly when the two prisoners claimed mistreatment.

Shortly after the Frishman-Hegdahl press conference, some officials at the CIA expanded upon the "Two Groups" idea to suggest that the prisoners may be kept in three separate places. According to this theory, one camp holds those prisoners who cooperate, another those who are unusually difficult, and the third those who are neither cooperative nor difficult. This might explain the difference in treatment reported by the various pilots who have returned, but it poses another question: why would North Vietnam release prisoners who had been tortured?

Another explanation of the difference in treatment was offered by Frishman himself. He said that what he called "torture" may be the doings of jailers who act without the knowledge of North Vietnam's leaders. Frishman stated, as an example, that his conditions improved whenever a North Vietnamese general visited the camp.

North Vietnam's treatment of its prisoners and its method of choosing those it releases may be puzzling, but the behavior of the United States toward those who have been freed is at least as mysterious. After ordering all the released pilots to say nothing, the Pentagon has allowed two of them to tell melodramatic stories, while demanding continuing silence of the others. Before the accounts by Frishman and Hegdahl can be accepted, the other freed prisoners must be allowed to tell their stories.

## COMMITTEE LIAISON

### *with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

September 18, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Friends,

We are very happy to forward the enclosed letters to you. I would like to give you an account of the events that took place around the illegal seizure of these letters at Kennedy Airport on Wednesday. You would have had your mail a day or two earlier had it not been for this interference.

Robert Scheer announced when he left Hanoi that he had been given 379 letters from pilots whose names appeared on the list of 335 previously confirmed prisoners. Mr. Scheer, with a delegation of 10, had spent three months in Algeria, North Korea, China, and North Vietnam, and had accumulated a wide range of materials. However, U.S. Customs officials at Kennedy Airport were interested only in the whereabouts of the letters. Mr. Scheer opened the two packets of letters for the Customs officials to see. They then took him into a private room and demanded that he turn over the mail, saying, "We must open it and read it." He refused to hand over the letters as they had been consigned to him for immediate delivery to families. Finally, the Customs officials agreed to place the letters in bond, where the packages were officially sealed and a receipt given to Mr. Scheer.

(Last Saturday 143 letters were brought by a traveller returning from Hanoi. That brought to 1243 the number of letters from prisoners that have been delivered by hand to the U.S. without interference.)

No explanation has been offered by anyone for the seizure of the mail, and no guarantees have been made that this will not happen again. On Thursday afternoon the State Department assured me that the mail was available to be claimed and expressed concern that it be forwarded immediately to relieve anxiety of waiting families. We reminded the State Department that it was the government that had seized the mail in seeming disregard for the families, prisoners, and the future of communication between them. Mr. Scheer offered to meet with representatives of the State Department at the airport to discuss the situation and see what could be done to prevent future occurrences of this nature. His request was rejected. When he went with Rennie Davis and myself to reclaim the mail, he was unnecessarily harrassed, and the press was ejected from observing the reclamation, despite the fact that the very same people had observed the seizure. When he finally got the letters, Mr. Scheer immediately transferred them to the Committee of Liaison for distribution.

We are very distressed about this incident. This delivery of mail brought first letters from previously confirmed prisoners for four families, some of whom had had no mail for five years. We have devoted considerable time and effort to maintaining a reliable and efficient channel for communication between you and the pilots. At the initiative of the North Vietnamese both the volume and frequency of mail has increased. The pilots have been receiving increasing numbers of packages, including a wide assortment of food, medicines, clothing and various kinds of games. We are not responsible for the consequences that acts of governmental interference may produce.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with us if you have any questions, and kindly inform us of any changes of address. Should you wish us to forward mail to your relatives in North Vietnam we will be glad to do so. There will be several people travelling there in the coming months.

Sincerely yours,

*Cora Weiss*  
Cora Weiss



OC 100-7938

It will be noted the COLIFAM reprint of leaflet captioned "Prisoners of War in Vietnam" by JOHN M. VAN DYKE which was sent to Mrs. RISNER as an enclosure to COLIFAM letter dated October 30, 1970, is critical of the United States in regards to United States' condemnation of the North Vietnamese for their treatment of captured Americans. Among the criticisms of the United States in this article are the following statements:

"It is a false premise that the United States and its allies conform to the requirements of the Geneva Convention."

"The United States pays only minimal attention to the Convention when it is not in its interest to do so."

"American soldiers frequently torture captured Viet Cong in order to obtain information about nearby enemy units."

"Finally, because of its desire to give the American public the bleakest possible view of what the enemy's prison camps are like, the Pentagon has muzzled freed Americans who want to talk about the experiences they had in captivity."

The November 1, 1970, issue of the Sunday Oklahoman, an established newspaper published in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, contains an article captioned "Norman Mother Asks Help in Effort to Ease Plight of POWs." The above article reports Navy Lieutenant DAN GLENN, son of Mr. and Mrs. CURTIS GLENN of Norman has been a Prisoner of War since approximately December 21, 1966. His wife was reported to be LYNN GLENN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

801-281-67c  
12/21/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised as follows:

Her son [REDACTED] United States Navy, has been a Prisoner of War since his plane was shot down on [REDACTED] 1966, while on a reconnaissance mission in Vietnam. [REDACTED] advised that her son's wife, [REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED] Florida, and has been in contact with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), and as a result of the contact with COLIFAM, her daughter-in-law has had some communications with her son. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that a Mrs. CORA WEISS was the person with whom her daughter-in-law had been in contact with of that organization.

801-281-67c

On 12/17/70 at [REDACTED] Oklahoma File # Oklahoma City 100-793  
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 12/18/70

# TREAT AS YELLOW

FBI

Date: 12-27-76

Priority  
☐ IMMEDIATE

Transmit the message that follows by coded teletype: ☐ URGENT

\*\*\*\*\*

TO: ☐ THE PRESIDENT

**FIELD DISSEMINATION**

☒ THE VICE PRESIDENT

☒ ATT.: Mr. Kent B. Crane ☐

☒ WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

☒ ATT.: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger

☒ SECRETARY OF STATE

☒ DIRECTOR, CIA

☒ DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
☐ AND NATIONAL INDICATIONS CENTER

☒ DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

☒ DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

☒ NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

☐ U. S. SECRET SERVICE (PID) ☐ ENCODED ☐ PLAINTEXT

☒ ATTORNEY GENERAL (BY MESSENGER) To be delivered 12-28-76

☐ NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, ATT: SENIOR OPERATION OFFICER

☐

From: DIRECTOR, FBI

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Subject: Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen  
Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

(Text of message begins on next page.)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Brennan, C.D. \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Walters \_\_\_\_\_  
Soyars \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

61 JAN 15 1971

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATION SECTION

DEC 27 1976

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approved

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ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11-10AM 12-27-70 MKA

PRIORITY

TO: THE VICE PRESIDENT, ATT. MR. KENT B. CRANE

TO: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

ATT.: DR. HENRY A. KISSENGER 002

TO: SECRETARY OF STATE

TO: DIRECTOR, CIA 001

TO: DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 001

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY 001

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 001

TO: NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE 001

TO: ATTORNEY GENERAL (BY MESSENGER)

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY SLIP(S) OF  
DATE 2/7/78

FOI 812-670

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN  
NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

ON DECEMBER TWENTYSIX, NINETEEN SEVENTY, A SOURCE WHO  
HAS FURNISHED RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE PAST, ADVISED THAT  
A MRS. WEISS REPRESENTING COLIFAM, ARRANGED WITH NORTHWEST  
ORIENT AIRLINES, J.F. KENNEDY AIRPORT, NEW YORK CITY,  
END PAGE ONE

FOI 812-670

DEC 27 1970  
CT [REDACTED]

PAGE TWO (CONFIDENTIAL)

FOR USE OF NORTHWEST'S LOUNGE ON DECEMBER TWENTYSEVEN, NINETEEN SEVENTY, FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH WAS TO BE CONDUCTED BY THREE PASSENGERS RETURNING ON NORTHWEST FLIGHT NUMBER FOUR, TEN FORTY-FIVE P.M., DECEMBER TWENTY SEVEN, NINETEEN SEVENTY FROM TOKYO. PASSENGERS WERE GIVEN AS R.T. YOUNG, T. YOUNG AND A. BENNETT WHO WOULD HAVE NEW PRISONER OF WAR NAMES RECEIVED FROM NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT.

SOURCE ADVISED ABOVE FLIGHT ALREADY AIRBORNE, DEPARTED HONG KONG FOR TOKYO. FLIGHT TO ARRIVE SEATTLE, WASHINGTON ELEVEN TWENTY A.M., DECEMBER TWENTY SEVEN, NINETEEN SEVENTY (SEATTLE TIME) WHERE CUSTOMS INSPECTION WILL BE MADE. U.S. CUSTOMS WILL NOT SEARCH IN NEW YORK CITY. NO PRESS CONFERENCE BELIEVED SCHEDULED FOR SEATTLE.

GP-1

BT

NNNN

ARMY PLS QSL OUR NR001

ARMY ACK MSG NR001

WH PLS QSL OUR NR002

WH QSL 002KKKKK

CIA PLS QSL OUR NR001

QSL UR 01 27/1639

DIA PLS QSL NR001 BY PHONE

DIA QSLS BY PHONE 55

OSI PLS QSL BY PHONE

OSI QSLS BY PHONE HS

NIS PLS QSL OUR NR001

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-457899-230

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 12/31/70

FROM : SAC, ALBANY (100-21500) (RUC)

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED  
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS - MISCELLANEOUS

(OO: New York)

Re New York airtel to Bureau, 12/29/70, and Bulet,  
10/12/70.

Continuing monthly contacts with the following in-  
dividuals to determine if the families of POWs or servicemen  
missing in action (MIA) has determined that the below listed  
contacts have no knowledge of COLIFAM activity in this area:

[REDACTED], NIS, Syracuse, New  
York. [REDACTED] is responsible for contacting the families of  
all Air Force POWs or MIAs who reside in the Albany Division.)

[REDACTED] is responsible  
for contacting families of POWs and MIAs quarterly in this  
area.)

[REDACTED] 108th MIG, Albany  
New York.

[REDACTED] 108th MIG, Syracuse,  
New York.

[REDACTED] USN, Albany, New  
York.

CC 94D  
2-Bureau (RM)  
2-New York (100-168469) (RM)  
1-Albany

5  
(5)

EX-111

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



AL 100-21500

E01281--2  
b7c

[REDACTED]  
Camp Drum, New York.

Contact with logical sources and a review of Albany files reflect nothing concerning press releases on COLIFAM in this Division.

All sources and contacts have been requested to advise the Albany Office of the FBI on any information coming to their attention concerning COLIFAM.

Upon receipt of any pertinent information, the Bureau and New York will be promptly notified.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO: [REDACTED]

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-457899)

DATE: 12/29/70

SAC, BUFFALO (100-20689)(P)

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED  
IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)  
IS-MISC  
REGISTRATION ACT  
OO: New York

7-26-93

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9/3/82 BY [REDACTED]

Remylet 11/30/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an LHM, dated and captioned as above. Enclosed for the New York Office are two copies of the LHM as New York Office is the office of origin in this matter.

601281-2  
67c

LEAD

BUFFALO

Will continue interviewing relatives or individuals named on list.

SI-100

- 2 - Bureau (Encs. 5) (RM)
- 2 - New York (Encs. 2) (RM)
- 1 - Buffalo

ENCLOSURE

REC-52

100-457899-232

EX JAN 7 1971

AGENCY: ARMY, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER., STATE, CIA

66 JAN 14 1971

DATE FORW.

HOW FORW.

BY:

RAO (SD, OAD, OAD, OAD)

11/2/71

813

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Buffalo, New York  
December 29, 1970

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES  
OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH  
VIETNAM (COLIFAM)**

On the indicated dates, the persons named on the attached Interview Reports were contacted by the named representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and furnished the information contained therein.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

EO 12812-2  
b7c

9803 [REDACTED]  
7-26-75 POW/MIA EO.12812  
MIA-POW Special

9803 [REDACTED] 3-22-93  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9/3/92 BY [REDACTED]

#220,613

EO 12812-2  
b7c

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

56 JAN 14 1971

FW

100-457899-232  
ENCLOSURE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

-1-

Date 11/9/70B01281~  
62c

[redacted] was interviewed at his place of employment [redacted] New York. He advised his son is [redacted] and that he is Missing In Action in Vietnam. He advised he has not been contacted by anyone other than the military regarding his son. He advised his son's wife, [redacted] resides in [redacted] Florida; and she has not mentioned in any of her letters that she has been contacted by anyone other than the military relative to her husband.

Mr. [redacted] advised that in the event he is contacted by a member of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, he will immediately notify the FBI.

B01281~  
62cOn 11/3/70 at [redacted] New York File # Buffalo 100-20689by SAA [redacted] Date dictated 11/5/70

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

-1-

1801281-267c  
Date 11/17/70

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
New York, advised her son, [REDACTED] is  
listed by the Air Force as Missing in Action.

She advised she has never been contacted by the  
Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in  
North Vietnam (COLIFAM) or any other similar organization.

1801281-267c

On 11/12/70 at [REDACTED] New York File # Buffalo 100-20689

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 11/13/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

-1-

Date 11/17/70

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
New York, advised her husband, [REDACTED], is listed  
by the Air Force as Missing in Action.

She advised she has never been contacted by the  
Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in  
North Vietnam (COLIFAM) or any other similar organization.

EO 12812-62c

EO 12812-62c

On 11/12/70 at [REDACTED] New York File # Buffalo 100-20689

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 11/13/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

-1-

FOI-281-~ 67c  
Date 12/3/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she and her husband, [REDACTED] have not been contacted by the Committee of Liaison With Families of Servicemen Detained In North Vietnam (COLIFAM) or by any of its members since her stepson, [REDACTED] was reported missing in action over North Vietnam last year. She advised that they had received information furnished by the Air Force that her stepson's squadron commander reported that he had seen a ball of fire in the area that he had last observed [REDACTED] plane on the particular mission over Hanoi on which [REDACTED] disappeared. Since that time they have received no information which would give them cause to believe that [REDACTED] is actually a prisoner of war.

She advised that they recently observed a picture in one of the local newspapers, which originated through an Italian Communist newspaper, depicting American prisoners of war playing basketball. Both she and her husband noted that one of the prisoners, who had his back to the cameraman, bore a striking resemblance to [REDACTED]. She remarked that [REDACTED] during the time he was a student at Pittsford, New York, High School, had been an outstanding basketball player.

She stated the [REDACTED] wife, [REDACTED] who is originally from [REDACTED] moved with her children to Randolph Field in order to be available for any word as to her husband's whereabouts. She furnished Mrs. [REDACTED] current address, which is [REDACTED] telephone number [REDACTED].

She advised that they have been in regular contact with [REDACTED] wife and are positive that she had not been contacted by COLIFAM or else she would have made some mention of it to them in her letters.

FOI-281-~ 67c

On 11/23/70

New York

File # Buffalo 100-20689

by SA [REDACTED]

Date dictated 11/27/70

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

#012812-67c

-1-

Date 12/4/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised her son, [REDACTED] has been listed as missing in action by the U. S. Air Force for four and one half years.

She advised she had not been contacted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) or anyone else other than those persons connected with the military.

#012812-67c

On 12/2/70 at [REDACTED] New York File # Buffalo 100-20689

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 12/3/70



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>LOUISVILLE</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE <b>1/6/71</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>9/8/70 - 12/30/70</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA [REDACTED]</b>	TYPED <b>[REDACTED]</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS</b> <b>9803 [REDACTED] 4-6-93 MIA-Pow spec</b> <b>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED</b>	

## REFERENCE:

Report of SA [REDACTED] at Louisville, 9803 dated 8/31/70.  
Louisville airtel to New York, dated 11/20/70.  
New York airtel to the Bureau, dated 12/29/70.

- RUC -

## ADMINISTRATIVE DATA:

All persons interviewed were advised that this investigation was being conducted at the specific request of Mr. J. WALTER YEAGLEY, Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security Division, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
APPROVED <b>FCF [REDACTED]</b>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
6 - Bureau (100-457899) (RM)						1 - [REDACTED] 233 RECS		
2 - New York (100-168469) (RM)						EX-111		
1 - Louisville (100-5474)						JAN 11 1971		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency	Army, Navy, OSI, CIA, STATE					[REDACTED]		
Request Recd.	RAO-75-D					[REDACTED]		
Date Fwd.	1/15/71					[REDACTED]		
How Fwd.	54 [REDACTED]					[REDACTED]		
By	[REDACTED]					[REDACTED]		

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

*EOL-2812-~  
67c*

Report of:

SA [REDACTED]

Office: LOUIS VILLE

Date:

January 6, 1971

Field Office File #:

100-5474

Bureau File #: 100-457899

Title:

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN  
DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM  
(COLIFAM)

Character:

INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS

Synopsis:

Parents and/or relatives of persons missing in  
action or prisoners of war in North Vietnam,  
interviewed. No one able to furnish any informa-  
tion concerning COLIFAM.

- RUC -

Details:

9803 [REDACTED]  
7-26-70 [REDACTED] POW/MIA E.O. 12812  
9823 [REDACTED] 6-93 MIA-POW [REDACTED]  
*802-812-~  
67c*  
9/3/82  
#220,673

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~~HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED~~  
~~EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN~~  
~~OTHERWISE~~

LS 100-5474

E01281-2  
67c

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]

On September 8, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Kentucky, furnished  
the following information to SA [REDACTED] in the presence  
of her husband:

Their son, [REDACTED] has been  
missing in action since [REDACTED] 1965, when he was  
"shot down" from a reconnaissance plane in which he was  
pilot on a mission to Laos. Their son's wife, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] lives at [REDACTED] Kentucky,  
with her five children. Neither they, at [REDACTED]  
nor [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] have had any contact  
with the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen  
Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), to their knowledge.  
She said she knows of no one else who has been contacted by  
COLIFAM. She has received no harassing telephone calls or  
literature. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

9/24/70

Date

F01-812-2  
b2c

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Kentucky, advised that her son is [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] who has been missing in  
action in Viet Nam.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has not been  
contacted by anyone concerning her son other than United  
States Air Force Personnel who contact her from time  
to time.

F01-812-2 b2c

On 9/16/70 at [REDACTED] Kentucky File # LS 100-5474

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/18/70

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/24/70*B01-812-2*  
*b2c*

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Kentucky, advised that she is the mother  
of [REDACTED] who has been  
missing in action in Viet Nam.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she has not been  
contacted by anyone from the Committee of Liason  
With Families of Servicemen Detained In North Viet  
Nam however, she did receive a telephone call from  
an unknown individual in California who advised that  
he was with several others going to North Viet Nam  
and would attempt to deliver any message that she  
would like have sent to her son. She was told to  
mail a letter to them for delivery to her son.

Mrs. [REDACTED] exhibited a letter she received  
postmarked July 29, 1970, from KENNETH KIRKPATRICK,  
Peace Education Secretary, American Friends Service  
Committee, Incorporated, 814 Northeast 40th Street,  
Seattle, Washington. This letter was on the letter-  
head of the American Friends Service Committee,  
Incorporated, 160 North Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia,  
Pennsylvania, and was dated 7/27/70. The letter  
indicates that they were returning her letter to her  
son and that KIRKPATRICK had gone to both Hanoi  
and Saigon and talked to a Mr. TRAN TRONG QUAT of the  
Viet Nam Committee for Solidarity with the American  
People. KIRKPATRICK indicated that he had a list  
of 335 American Servicemen from the above mentioned  
committee who he says are held in detention camp  
in North Vietnam.

The letter states that Mr. TRAN TRONG QUAT  
informed KIRKPATRICK that he would accept only letters  
directed to the named individuals on the list and  
would not receive any other letters. Therefore,  
KIRKPATRICK was returning the letter to Mrs. [REDACTED]

*B01-812-2*  
*b2c*

On 9/16/70 at [REDACTED] Kentucky File # LS 100-5474

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 9/18/70

EO 12812-2  
b7c

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]

On September 16, 1970, efforts were made to contact Mrs. [REDACTED] in care of [REDACTED] Kentucky, and it was determined through Mr. [REDACTED] that Mrs. [REDACTED] was in rather poor health and would not be available for interview. [REDACTED] suggested that his wife, sister of [REDACTED] be contacted at [REDACTED] where she is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] advised that his wife had been handling all matters concerning her missing brother and would have the type of information that the Agent was seeking. [REDACTED] did not have any knowledge of any contact by the committee in question.

On September 16, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she was the sister of missing [REDACTED] and that she had not been contacted by the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam, (COLIFAM). The only contact she had was with one DONALD BARSE, Officer, United States Air Force, Dayton, Ohio. She could furnish no further information.

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED] on September 30, 1970, at  
[REDACTED] Kentucky:

Mr. [REDACTED] father of [REDACTED] was contacted concerning any individuals who might have contacted him regarding his son who is presently missing in action. Mr. [REDACTED] advised his son has been missing since [REDACTED] 1966, and the only contact he has had with anyone concerning his son has been the military authorities. Mr. [REDACTED] stated he was recently contacted by someone from the Air Force in Ohio, who advised him to be on the look

LS 100-5474

BO 1281-2  
67c

for people who might represent themselves to be able to help him get in contact with his son. Mr. [REDACTED] advised this group that was supposed to contact him was supposed to be sympathetic to the North Vietnamese. Mr. [REDACTED] advised should anyone from this group attempt to contact him, he would immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]

On October 2, 1970, Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] Kentucky, advised that their son, [REDACTED], was a jet pilot with the United States Air Force. He has been missing in action since August, 1968, and he was last observed to be flying a ground support mission over North Vietnam. They were advised by the Department of Defense that it was presumed that [REDACTED] crashed on his last mission. No word has been received concerning the whereabouts of their son, according to Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]. They have no information indicating that their son is a prisoner of war. Mrs. [REDACTED] indicated that she feels that her son is dead. They have not been contacted by COLIFAM.

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]

On October 5, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] wife of [REDACTED] Kentucky, was interviewed at her place of employment, [REDACTED] Kentucky. Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that the only efforts that have been made in her behalf by organizations have been made by the United States Air Force and the International Red Cross. She said that she has never received any crank calls regarding

BO 1281-2  
67c

LS 100-5474

201-81-670

her husband, who has been missing in action since [REDACTED] 1968, and has never been contacted by COLIFAM or for that matter, any organization which claimed that it would or could intercede with the North Vietnam Government to determine whether her husband is a prisoner of war or is on their casualty list.

She stated that as far as she knows, she is the only person in [REDACTED] Kentucky, who has a close relative missing in action in Vietnam. She said that she has never been contacted by any other families or relatives of men missing in action for any purpose whatsoever.

She said that she has written letters to the North Vietnam Government at Hanoi and to their delegation at Paris, France, but has never received a reply.

She stated that she would immediately notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation should the committee in question or any other group outside the United States Air Force and the International Red Cross contact her regarding her husband.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date October 19, 1970

b7c B01-80

1

[REDACTED] and that he has a son, [REDACTED] who is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. He advised that his son has been a prisoner of war for about three years and that he has never heard of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam.

[REDACTED] advised that he had sent a Christmas card to his son last Christmas through the Red Cross in Washington, D.C., and that according to the letters, four of which have been received from his son, his son had never received a letter from his wife, but did receive the 1969 Christmas card sometime during the past summer. He said that the last letter received from his son was dated July 24, 1970, and that this letter was received about the middle of September, 1970. He advised that the letters were very scant in information furnished and that he was sure that it was necessary for the letters to be short and non-specific in order for them to pass censorship.

[REDACTED] advised that the letters are actually addressed to his son's wife, Mrs. [REDACTED] Virginia, and when she gets the letters she then has a copy made and sends it to him.

B01-80  
b7c

On 10/7/70 at [REDACTED] Kentucky File # LS 100-5474

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 10/13/70

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

8

KOH-111-  
67c

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA [REDACTED]

On October 9, 1970, Mr. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Kentucky, advised that he is the  
brother of [REDACTED] United States Air  
Force, who is a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. He  
stated that [REDACTED] wife, [REDACTED] resides in  
Virginia, and works at the Pentagon. His parents are presently  
in [REDACTED] and are due to return the following  
week. Since his brother was shot down over enemy  
territory, the [REDACTED] wife has received three letters  
through an unknown source. These letters were then  
xeroxed and forwarded to the parents. His father and mother  
would be able to provide details as to how the letters  
arrived. He concluded by stating he has never been con-  
tacted by any group in any way in connection with his  
brother being a prisoner of war.

On October 16, 1970, Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Kentucky, advised that  
they are the parents of [REDACTED] United  
States Air Force, who is presently a prisoner of war in  
North Vietnam, having been shot down [REDACTED] 1968. They ad-  
vised that a little over one year ago, they were notified  
by the Air Force that their son was a prisoner of war.

[REDACTED] they stated that [REDACTED] wife,  
[REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED] Arlington,  
Virginia, [REDACTED] and is employed at the Pentagon,  
department unknown.

Approximately one year ago and during the  
summer of 1969, [REDACTED] wife received a tape recording  
of her husband's voice from the Air Force. Mrs. [REDACTED]  
had no idea where the tape came from. She offered the  
opinion that someone had taped this voice during a  
prisoner of war broadcast over short-wave radio.

LS 100-5474

Both Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that they had never been contacted in any way or by anyone in connection with their son being a prisoner of war. They were unable to provide any information whatsoever concerning COLIFAM. B01-81-2  
62c

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] wife has received three letters from her husband since he has been a prisoner of war. She stated that the first letter arrived in late 1969 or early 1970; the next in May of 1970, and the last letter being during the summer of 1970. She stated that his wife has forwarded copies of the letters to her and after viewing the handwriting, both Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] believe they are genuine.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] wife had been contacted by an unknown woman from either New York or Philadelphia by telephone. Other than the telephonic contact, she was unable to provide any information as to who delivered the letters or for that matter, who may have acted as courier.

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] wife is writing her husband and has also sent packages to her husband, but she was unable to provide any information as to the method of mailing or delivery. B01-81-2  
62c

She stated that this past summer, [REDACTED] wife sent a pamphlet to her which reflected the name "National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia, Post Office Box 4116 Virginia Beach, Virginia, 23454." The contents of this brochure disclosed an ad or request to write for further information to One (1) Constitution Avenue, Washington, D. C.

In essence, the brochure requests one to direct letters to the President of North Vietnam and in them state that the writer is fearful of the well being of American prisoners of war, and request that terms of the Geneva Convention be honored.

601-28-67c

Both Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] were unable to provide any additional information concerning this matter, and added that should they be contacted by any group in the future relative to this matter, they would contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED]

On October 27, 1970, Mrs. [REDACTED] Kentucky, stated that Mrs. [REDACTED] mother of [REDACTED] who is a prisoner of war, is an invalid confined to the [REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED] due to her advanced years and the nature of her illness (Parkinson's Disease), has not been advised that her son is a prisoner of war even though he has been held by North Vietnam for at least three years.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that her daughter [REDACTED] has been appointed guardian for Mrs. [REDACTED] and all the latter's legal affairs are being handled by Mrs. [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED] on October 27, 1970, substantiated the above information and specifically requested that Mrs. [REDACTED] not be contacted and apprised that her son is a prisoner of war.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that she handles all of Mrs. [REDACTED] correspondence and knows for a certainty that Mrs. [REDACTED] has not received any mail from any person or group acting for the North Vietnamese Government. Moreover, Mrs. [REDACTED] has not been contacted by any outside persons at the [REDACTED] inasmuch as personnel there have been instructed by Mrs. [REDACTED] not to allow any strangers to see Mrs. [REDACTED]

LS 100-5474

1201-712-  
670

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] wife,  
[REDACTED] (no given name) is living at [REDACTED]  
Florida, [REDACTED]

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>BOSTON</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE <b>1/6/71</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>8/4 - 12/14/70</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>	TYPE <b>[REDACTED]</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>IS-MISCELLANEOUS;</b>	

REFERENCE: Boston letter dated 7/31/70.  
San Antonio letter dated 8/27/70.  
Bureau letter dated 10/12/70.  
New York airtel dated 12/29/70.

- RUC -  
345,570  
9803  
7-26-75  
Powling E.O. 12812  
SP5C1-4pt 8-24-92 (see draft)  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9/3/82 BY [REDACTED]  
#220,673

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/>
								PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/>
APPROVED <b>[Signature]</b>						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
COPIES MADE: 6-Bureau (100-457899)(RM) 2-New York (100-168469)(RM) 1-Boston (100-41237)						45789-334 9 JAN 11 1971 EX-1		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency	Army, Navy, CIA, OSI, STATE							
Number Recd.	RAB-158							
Date Fwd.	1/20/71							
How Fwd.	R/S							
By	[REDACTED]							

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OTHERWISE GPO : 1964 O - 296-85

BS 100-41237

*Bolton-2  
b7c*

INFORMANTS

Identity

Location

[REDACTED]  
(specific request)  
[REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE

Complete details of the interview of Mrs. [REDACTED] are contained in an appropriate FD-302 maintained in the Boston file. The results of the interview of her have been set forth in the details under a "T" symbol as she specifically stated she did not wish to be disclosed as the source of information she furnished.

Investigation by the Boston Division failed to locate anyone at [REDACTED] Me., by the name of [REDACTED] it being noted that page 16 of New York LHM, dated 6/9/70, in captioned matter, listed as one of the reported confirmed Prisoners of War a [REDACTED] Me.

It is to be noted, however, that a review of referenced 8/27/70 San Antonio letter determined that one Mrs. [REDACTED] (wire), [REDACTED] Me. [REDACTED] (PW) was among listed Air Force personnel and next of kin as furnished by the U. S. Air Force to Agents of the San Antonio Division. It would appear that [REDACTED] quite likely is identical with the above-mentioned [REDACTED] however, investigation to locate [REDACTED] had been unsuccessful to date. On the of reNYairtel, further efforts to locate [REDACTED] are being discontinued at this time.

Interview of other individuals mentioned in the San Antonio letter was not recommended as there was no indication they would be known to captioned committee, with the exception of Mrs. [REDACTED] mother of [REDACTED] who was interviewed in this matter and the results are set forth in this report.

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ADMINISTRATIVE (Cont.)

BO (1-11-70) 67c

[REDACTED] Fla., and [REDACTED] Fla., mentioned by Mrs. [REDACTED] have been previously interviewed in this matter and the results set forth in Tampa report of SA [REDACTED] dated 7/20/70.

The delay in the interview of [REDACTED] was due to the fact that she was travelling [REDACTED]

In accordance with instructions in reNYairtel and as all other outstanding leads have been covered, this matter is being RUC'd to OO. In the event pertinent information subsequently comes to the attention of this office the Bureau and New York will be appropriately advised.

C\*  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BO 1-2-2  
67c

Copy to:

Report of: SA [REDACTED]  
Date: 1/5/71

Office: Boston, Massachusetts

Field Office File #: 100-41237

Bureau File #: 100-457899

Title: COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH FAMILIES OF  
SERVICEMEN DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS;  
REGISTRATION ACT

BO 1-2-2  
67c

Synopsis: [REDACTED] advised: Mrs. [REDACTED] Me.,  
Wife of Prisoner of War (POW) [REDACTED] had  
not heard from her husband since he was taken prisoner  
in 11/65 until receipt of a letter from him enclosed  
in a letter from DAVE DELLINGER on the stationery of  
"Liberation." Subsequent letters have also been received  
by her from her husband through DAVE DELLINGER, TOM HAYDEN,  
and CORA WEISS. These communications only contact  
Mrs. [REDACTED] has had with COLIFAM and she has not  
forwarded any letters to her husband through COLIFAM or  
directed any correspondence to that committee. Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Me., advised: POW [REDACTED]  
is husband of her sister, [REDACTED] who is  
confined to nursing home with multiple-sclerosis; that  
[REDACTED] is unaware of his wife's present physical  
condition or residence in a nursing home; that all  
correspondence from and to him is directed from the [REDACTED]  
residence and that she, Mrs. [REDACTED] reviews all correspondence  
to her sister prior to delivery because of the sister's serious  
physical and mental condition. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that  
COLIFAM had corresponded with Mrs. [REDACTED] and sent her  
letters from her husband and that letters of acknowledgment  
and appreciation have been sent to the committee in the name  
of Mrs. [REDACTED] however, no letters have been sent to  
[REDACTED] through the committee. Mrs. [REDACTED]

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DATE 9/13/92 BY 216  
3/24/93 ALH-100

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OTHERWISE  
BO 1-2-2  
67c

BS 100-41237

SYNOPSIS (continued)

201-812-670

summer residence. [redacted] Me., advised her son, [redacted] has been POW since 8/68; and that she received her first letter from him since he became a POW shortly before Christmas, 1969, a letter brought back from North Vietnam by a group of women who had visited POWs in North Vietnam, one of whom was her son. Since the formation of COLIFAM in 1/70, she has sent two letters to her son through the committee and has received letters from him forwarded to her by the committee. She has sent money to the committee for postage. Mrs. [redacted] Mass., mother of POW [redacted] advised that she had been referred to COLIFAM through RUSSELL JOHNSON of the American Friend's Service Committee at Cambridge, Mass.; that she had initially telephonically contacted DAVID DELLINGER and CORA WEISS who suggested she write a letter to her son and mail it to them in New York for forwarding. She had complied with the instructions and within a month received a reply from her son. She has since been receiving a letter on an average of once every two months. She had offered DELLINGER and WEISS money but they had declined her offer. Mrs. [redacted] Mass., advised her son, [redacted] was shot down in Vietnam in 7/68 and was listed as missing in action until 8/69, when he was identified as a POW. In 12/69, she received her first letter from her son which was brought back from Vietnam by a delegation of three women, one of whom was CORA WEISS, from Women Strike for Peace, to Vietnam, who had interviewed POWs. Subsequently, she received a form letter from COLIFAM in 1/70, introducing the committee, following which she sent one or two letters through the committee to her son but thereafter

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SYNOPSIS (continued)

has used normal mailing procedures. She has received two letters from her son through the committee, one in 4/70 and one in 9/70 and has acknowledged each. All of the above-mentioned individuals expressed their desire not to cooperate should their testimony be desired against COLIFAM.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

BS 100-41237

FOI-812-67C

[REDACTED] on August 4, 1970, provided the following information:

4.6.4 11.6.3 [REDACTED] a United States Naval Officer who has been detained as a prisoner of war (POW) by the North Vietnam Government since [REDACTED] 1966, was the husband of Mrs. [REDACTED] Maine.

Mrs. [REDACTED] had had no contact with her husband since he was taken prisoner until a letter was received from him through DAVE DELLINGER who had written to her on October 4, 1967, on stationery bearing letterhead "Liberation" enclosing a letter to her from [REDACTED]. This letter had been directed to Mrs. [REDACTED] under her maiden name, Miss [REDACTED] Maine. Since that time, additional letters have been directed to Mrs. [REDACTED] from her husband through DAVE DELLINGER, TOM HAYDEN and CORA WEISS, and these latter communications have been received under Mrs. [REDACTED] married name.

Mrs. [REDACTED] was a member of the Delegation that went to Paris in December 1969, in an effort to intercede with Hanoi officials for the release of POW's, and at this time would not cooperate in any proceedings as she wishes to keep every avenue of communication with her husband open; and any public act by her might be the basis for retaliatory measures against her husband.

On the basis of letters received by Mrs. [REDACTED] from her husband, it would appear he was in good health, however, his recent letters appear to have been dictated by others as they have an oriental manner

BS 100-41237

BO/211-~  
67c

of expression. In his letters he makes no mention of receiving letters from Mrs. [REDACTED] but has acknowledged receipt of packages forwarded by her to him through the facilities of the United States Navy.

Mrs. [REDACTED] has not as yet utilized an offer of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen (COLIFAM) to forward letters from her to her husband nor has she directed any correspondence to that committee.

Mrs. [REDACTED] has not been subjected to any harassment or types of influence by COLIFAM.

[REDACTED] also made available correspondence received by Mrs. [REDACTED] from COLIFAM and "Liberation" which informant advised has been Mrs. [REDACTED] only contact with the committee.



5 Beekman Street • New York, N.Y. 10038  
Telephone: (212) CO 7-1468 • Cable: PEACEMOVE

EDITORIAL BOARD: A.J. Muste (1885-1967), Chairman;  
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Lamar Hoover, Managing Editor Ralph Di Gioia, Treasurer  
Associate Editors: Kay Boyle; Tom Hayden; Nat Hentoff; Mulford Sibley

October 4, 1967

Miss [redacted] Maine

Dear Miss Malone:

I have recently returned from a conference in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia at which forty Americans from the peace movement met with representatives from the National Liberation Front and North Vietnam. The North Vietnamese brought with them the enclosed letter, along with several others from American pilots, and asked us to send it on to you.

I have not seen Allan Carpenter and have not, of course, read his letter but I hope that it brings reassuring news of his health and well-being. Let me just add that I have visited North Vietnam twice in the past year and on my second trip, in May-June, I visited a detention camp and talked at length with two of the American prisoners. Naturally such a brief visit from the outside cannot find out everything one would like to know. Also, no food, exercise or medical care can make up for the absence of freedom and the sorrow of being separated from one's family and loved ones. But at least I am glad to be able to inform you that my visit was encouraging in that, for example, the prisoners we talked with appeared cheerful and commented that they were well fed and cared for. I am enclosing a copy of Liberation in which there is a fuller report of the conditions at the camp and our discussions with the two Americans.

Please accept my sincere best wishes for you in your present difficult situation and my prayers that the war will soon be over and Allan returned to you.

Sincerely,

Dave Dellinger  
Dave Dellinger

DD/bw

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

DAVID DELLINGER

BO-1-81-670

(212) 765-1490

March 9, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
\*Maggie Geddes  
\*Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Ben Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
\*Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Jim:

We have just received word from Hanoi that a letter from [redacted] to you has been mailed from North Vietnam and is expected to arrive here shortly, perhaps in the next week or two. As soon as it arrives, along with 86 others in the same package, we will send it to you immediately. Please forgive the mimeographed letter but we wanted you to know right away, particularly the large number of families for whom this will be the first letter.

As a result of arrangements made with the North Vietnamese, mail from captured pilots will be sent to this office in bundles for remailing to families. The Committee of Liaison, which includes members of various anti-war organizations, also forwards letters to captured pilots, although families are able to send letters, once per month, and a package, of six pounds or less every other month, directly. Both letters and packages should be addressed to:

Name of serviceman, serial number  
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots Captured  
in the D.R.V.  
Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam  
via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

We understand that three more packages of mail are on their way and as has been announced by the postmaster general of Hanoi, in all, 318 letters are expected in this period. Since December we have forwarded 266 letters; and as of this mailing we have official confirmation of 219 servicemen held by the North Vietnamese.

We are very pleased to be able to perform this service and hope that you will feel free to be in touch with us if you have any questions. In the meantime we continue to work for the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Vietnam; to bring an end to the fighting, killing and capturing and to hasten the day when all families will be reunited, American and Vietnamese.

Sincerely yours,

Cora Weiss Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss & Dave Dellinger

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

May 4, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Coro Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

From: Rev. Richard Fernandez  
To: The families of the 335 presently confirmed prisoners held in North Vietnam  
Re: Information on correspondence with prisoners

On April 20th I returned from a three-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. In North Vietnam I spoke with officials responsible for communication between pilots held in detention there and their families here. The following information was emphasized to me by the North Vietnamese authorities and we are anxious to make sure that you are aware of it:

- 1) The Vietnamese recommend that families use the air-letter form (enclosed) for correspondence.
- 2) Communication to pilots should be limited to matters of family and health.
- 3) Pilots are allowed to receive one letter per month and one package every other month (not over six pounds in weight).

Detention Camp authorities have said that they do not wish to receive several letters and/or packages per month for a given pilot from different members of the same family. Families should make arrangements for alternating letters each month if different members

want to write.

The North Vietnamese authorities indicated that, from this point forward, they will not feel responsible for forwarding letters and packages that do not adhere to the above.

If the letter form is mailed directly it can go in another envelope but the mail route, "via Moscow, U.S.S.R.," should definitely be included in the address. If letters are sent to the Committee of Liaison for forwarding please enclose but do not affix stamps as we send letters on in packets. The Committee cannot forward packages for families.

While I was in Hanoi, Prof. Douglas Dowd of Cornell University and I met with three pilots: Cdr. Robert Schweitzer of Lemoore, California; Cdr. Walter Wilbur of Virginia Beach and Lt. Col. Edison Miller of Santa Ana, California. The three men were in good health, and said they had daily exercise and reading material. The three pilots advised us that they had been getting letters and packages from their



Richard Fernandez me: - page 2

families, and asked that packages include toilet articles and canned foods. In particular they mentioned soap, shaving cream (no razors or blades), toothpaste, powdered milk and cream, instant coffee and non-melting candy. They said they do not need clothes.

Also, in my discussions with the Vietnam Committee of Solidarity with the American People, the Committee of Liaison's contact in North Vietnam, we confirmed that since December over 800 letters have been sent from Hanoi through the Committee of Liaison. Of those, 156 letters are still on their way from Hanoi to families here.

We hope that this information clarifies some aspects of correspondence for you. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

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A characterization of DAVE DELLINGER is contained in the characterization of "Liberation" Magazine set out in the appendix pages. In addition, on February 18, 1970, DELLINGER and THOMAS HAYDEN *AKA 7344 Hayden* amongst others were found guilty in United States District Court, Northern District, Illinois, Chicago, Illinois, for violating the Federal Antiriot Law Statute for traveling in interstate commerce from outside the state of Illinois with the intent to incite riots in Chicago, Illinois, during the Democratic National Convention in August 1968. On February 20, 1970, they were sentenced to five years imprisonment and fined \$5,000. On February 28, 1970, the United States Court of Appeals, Seventh District, Chicago, ordered DELLINGER and his codefendants released on \$25,000 bond each pending appeals of their convictions.

THOMAS HAYDEN has been further identified as one of the founders of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), a characterization of which is contained in the appendix.

BS T-2 in March 1956 advised that CORA WEISS, then CORA RUBIN, while attending the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, was present at a public

BS 100-41237

meeting sponsored by the University of Wisconsin, Chapter of the Labor Youth League (LYL).

The Labor Youth League has been designated pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/11/70

1.

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Maine furnished the following information:

She is a sister of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who was a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force. [REDACTED] returned to the [REDACTED] residence [REDACTED] in January 1968, and resided there until [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had been a prisoner of war (POW) in North Vietnam since [REDACTED] 1968, and at the present time he is unaware of the seriousness of his wife's current physical condition or her residence at the nursing home. All correspondence from and to him is directed from the address of Mrs. [REDACTED] and she reviews all correspondence directed to [REDACTED] prior to delivering the material to her [REDACTED]

The Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) has corresponded with [REDACTED] and sent letters to her from her husband [REDACTED]. Letters of acknowledgement and appreciation have been sent to COLIFAM under the name of Mrs. [REDACTED]. To date, however, letters to [REDACTED] have not been sent to him in care of COLIFAM.

Contact with COLIFAM has only been by correspondence. There have been no threats or attempts

On 8/4/70

[REDACTED] Maine

File # BS 100-41237

by SA [REDACTED]

Date dictated 8/5/70

BS 100-41237

2.

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at harassment in the correspondence received from COLIFAM or anything considered of an improper nature. Mrs. [REDACTED] was unable to recall on how many occasions she had acknowledged with appreciation the receipt of letters from [REDACTED] or the identity of the individual from COLIFAM directing the correspondence.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] the family would not be able to cooperate in any way in the event action should be initiated against COLIFAM. The following is a copy of literature made available by [REDACTED] and received from COLIFAM:

3.  
**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

**CABLE ADDRESS:**

**COLIAFAM**

**INFORMATION SHEET**

**Co-chairmen:**

**Dave Dellinger**

**Core Weiss**

**Treasurer:**

**Mrs. Anne Bennett**

**Committee (in formation):**

**Rennie Davis**

**Rev. Richard Fernandez**

**\*Maggie Geddes**

**\*Steve Holliswell**

**Stewart Macnamara**

**Prof. Ben Seitzman**

**Ethel Taylor**

**\*Barbara Webster**

**\*Trudi Young**

**\*staff**

**Functions of the Committee**

The Committee of Liaison seeks to facilitate communication between servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam and their families in the United States. The Committee receives letters from servicemen and forwards them to the families through the domestic mails. It also forwards letters to North Vietnam at the request of families. Families are, of course, still free to send letters directly but should not the correct address for both letters and packages:

Name of serviceman, serial number  
Camp of Detention of U.S. Pilots Captured  
in the D.R.V.

Hanoi, Democratic Republic of Vietnam

via Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Captured servicemen may receive one letter a month and one package (not over six pounds in weight) every other month. The Committee does not forward packages. It is suggested that letters sent to the Committee for forwarding be sealed and that stamps be enclosed (not affixed) as letters are forwarded in packets.

The Committee is only able to be of help with respect to men who have been shot down over North Vietnam.

The Committee also is able to request information regarding the status of men thought to have been shot down over North Vietnam and captured there. For such inquiries the Committee needs to have the individual's service number, and any available information as to when and where he was shot down. With respect to such requests the Committee would expect to receive a letter to his family if the individual is being held in North Vietnam. If the individual is known to be dead or if the North Vietnamese have no information regarding him, the Committee expects to receive that word to the extent possible. In any case the Committee will communicate with the family concerned as soon as it receives word. In this way we expect that, as Xuan Thuy, head of the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris, has said, gradually all families of servicemen held in North Vietnam will hear from their relative.

**Background**

The Committee of Liaison has been established in response to an initiative

created by the North Vietnamese and is an extension of previous efforts. It is not in any sense representing the government of North Vietnam.

Since 1965 there have been a number of meetings between people of Vietnam (from both the North and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam) and Americans who oppose the war. On three separate occasions representatives of the American anti-war movement have gone to Hanoi and have returned with released servicemen. On one occasion an American peace activist went to Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to receive three American soldiers who were released by the National Liberation Front. Americans visiting Hanoi have frequently carried letters to captured servicemen at the request of their families and they have brought back letters when they have returned to the United States. On several occasions such visitors from the peace movement have met with captured pilots in Hanoi.

#### The Committee

The Committee of Liaison believes that the safe return of U.S. servicemen captured in North Vietnam and the half-million others that the United States maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and aboard naval vessels can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to completely withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will also continue our efforts aimed at the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces and weapons.

As individuals Committee members are active in a variety of organizations and groups committed to ending the war: the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, The Conspiracy, Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam, U.S. Inter-religious Committee on Peace, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Newsreel, Women Against Daddy Warbucks, Lawyers Committee on Vietnam, and Women Strike for Peace.

The Committee of Liaison is entirely dependent on donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 8/11/70

Mrs. [REDACTED] was located  
and interviewed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] she was not able  
to recall the past and advised that her sister Mrs. [REDACTED]  
Maine, could probably be a source  
of information concerning her.

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FOI 2812-2 b7c

On 8/4/70 at [REDACTED] Maine File # BS 100-41237

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 8/5/70

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/14/70

120122-67c

Mrs. [redacted] residence address [redacted] Florida, was interviewed at her summer residence, [redacted] Maine. She furnished the following information:

Her son [redacted] a United States Navy pilot, was taken as a prisoner of war in Hanoi on August 17, 1968.

During the Christmas season of 1969 CORA WEISS of New York, and Mrs. MADELINE DOUGLAS of [redacted] California, went to Hanoi, North Vietnam, at which time they interviewed her son, [redacted]

Mrs. [redacted] telephonically contacted her about December 23, 1969 and informed her that she, Mrs. [redacted] and CORA WEISS, had talked with her son. And what he had to say. MADELINE DOUGLAS and CORA WEISS held a press conference in California and pictures of her son, [redacted] appeared in newspapers all over the United States.

FO 120122-67c

Mrs. [redacted] said she received a letter in October, 1969, from the league of families. The letter she received from the League of Families informed her that a group of women were going to North Vietnam and they would try to hand carry letters to the prisoners of war. About one week before Christmas, 1969, Mrs. ETHEL TAYLOR, 1505 Ashford Way, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, telephonically contacted her and informed her that she brought back several letters from North Vietnam and that one of the letter was from her son, [redacted] and that she, Mrs. ETHEL TAYLOR, would mail the letter to her. She received this letter from her son on approximately December 23 or 24, 1969.

PROPERTY OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

FO 120122-67c

On 8/4/70 [redacted] Maine File# Boston 100-41237

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 8/10/70

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This was the first letter she received from her son after he was taken as Prisoner of War.

She received a letter from her son about January 1, 1970. This letter was mailed from Hanoi by the North Vietnamese.

*LOUIS SCHNEIDER*  
In January, 1970, she received a Christmas card from her son which was sent to her by the Committee of Liaison and which was brought out of North Vietnam by LOUIS W. SCHNEIDER of American Friends Service Committee, 160 North Fifteenth Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

She received a letter dated May 13, 1970, from the Committee of Liaison, signed by BARBARA WEBSTER, forwarding one or two letters to her from her son, [REDACTED]

*BO 12812-767c*  
She received a letter dated April 20, 1970, from the Committee of Liaison, signed STEVEN B. HALLIWELL, enclosing a letter from her son, [REDACTED]. This letter was brought out of North Vietnam by Reverend RICHARD FERNANDEZ, a member of the Committee of Liaison.

*BO 12812-767c*  
Since the Committee of Liaison was formed in January, 1970, she has sent two letters to her son, [REDACTED] through the Committee of Liaison. One of the letters was sent in January, 1970, and one of the letters was sent in March, 1970. She said she didn't know whether or not her son received these letters.

She sent \$1.00 or \$2.00 to the Committee of Liaison for postage.

In January, 1970, she mailed \$4.00 or \$5.00 to Mrs. MADELINE DOUGLAS of Berkley, California, to cover the cost of the telephone call which Mrs. DOUGLAS made to her.

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She was never harassed by any member of the Committee of Liaison and her contact with members of the Committee were very friendly. *B012812-2 67c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that Mrs. [REDACTED] Florida, and Mrs. [REDACTED] Florida, received correspondence from the Committee of Liaison.

Mrs. [REDACTED] said she did not desire to cooperate should her testimony be needed at a later date regarding this matter due to the fact she thought the Committee of Liaison was very helpful to her in corresponding with her son and have been the only help she has received in corresponding with him. *B012812-2 67c*

Mrs. [REDACTED] furnished the following correspondence which she advised she received from the Committee of Liaison.

100-443887-100

To those who see the Vietnamese Rev. Jews place a distinction between the U.S. government, whom they hold responsible for the policy of war, and the U.S. people, whom they believe still value the goals upon which this country was founded--independence, justice, freedom and equality. This same distinction is evident to those Americans who have visited North Viet Nam and found that even though the nation is armed to defend itself, the people are encouraged by their government to believe that the American people are basically decent and humane.

In addition, Americans visiting Korea have frequently carried letters there at the request of families, and have brought back letters from servicemen. There have also been occasions when American peace activists have met prisoners and talked with them.

### Findings of the Grand Jury

[illegible]

Chief of Bureau  
California  
Alameda County  
San Francisco

requests for information about prisoners held by the North Vietnamese. The Committee will be notified of the results, but there is no certainty when and if the North Vietnamese will be able to respond. The Committee will of course immediately relay information that it receives to the families.

### Clarification

The Committee has been asked to clarify its position. It should be noted that the Committee will be working with the Government of North Vietnam and will not have any information or contact with South Vietnam or the Provisional Revolutionary Government. It will be able to provide information of this kind concerning men held in Laos or any other last known location except where U.S. troops and aircraft are presently involved in combat situations.

Secondly, the Committee will function entirely apart from the U.S. government. The U.S. government has frequently made it most difficult for the Committee to be seen as the sponsor of American families by making the families' genuine desires for a propaganda play. The government has further attempted to provoke an angry response from the Vietnamese by publicizing unsubstantiated and inflammatory testimony from soldiers serving in the area. Apparently, the government has decided to jeopardize existing communications and the possibility of future releases for the sake of propaganda aimed at prolonging the war. The North Vietnamese are also very aware that the U.S. government's claims of humanitarian concerns are contradicted by the well-documented policy of torture and brutality practiced on prisoners taken in the South by U.S. and Saigon troops.

In addition to all these factors, there is the simple fact that the resolution of the fate of all the servicemen now held in North Vietnam waits ultimately upon a U.S. decision to end the war and withdraw all its forces and material.

### We Do Are

We firmly believe that the safe return of those men and the half million others that the U.S. maintains in South Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and aboard naval vessels—who can also be viewed as prisoners, prisoners of their own government since many have been sent to fight in a war against the dictates of their own conscience—can only come with a decision on the part of the U.S. government to withdraw from Vietnam. Because of this conviction, we who are serving on this Committee will continue our efforts to create popular pressure strong enough to force the government to withdraw.

We are active in a variety of organizations committed to ending the war: American Friends Service Committee, the New Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam, Clergy and Laymen Concerned about Vietnam, Women Strike for Peace, The Conspiracy, and Women Against Dirty Bombs. The Committee is supported by donations from individuals and organizations, and welcomes any gifts to sustain its work.

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street New York, N.Y. 10036  
Cable address: COLIAFAM

212-765-1490

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee (in formation):  
Rennie Davis  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bob Seitzman  
Ethel Taylor  
Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young  
staff

January 24, 1970

Dear Mrs. [REDACTED]

On behalf of Cora Weiss and the Committee of Liaison I'd like to thank you very much for your recent contribution and kind letter. We are certainly glad to be of any help and look forward to sending more letters to you in the future.

The Vietnamese have said that prisoners can send and receive one letter a month, and that they can receive one package every other month if it does not weigh more than six pounds. The enclosed Information Sheet gives the address and mail route which must be used. If you would like to you may continue sending your letters to us and we will forward them on (in which case we enclose it in a packet of other letters). Or you can send them directly.

Mail for families from prisoners will be sent to us and we will forward those letters on immediately.

One of the tragedies of the U.S. aggression in Vietnam is what it is doing to Americans as well, especially the men and boys who get sent there to fight. The North Vietnamese are, in fact, more understanding than some Americans about the fact that even U.S. servicemen are in a very real way victims for they too have, as Gov. George Romney put it, been "brainwashed" into believing the lies and distortions our government tells. We agree with the Vietnamese that if the American people really knew the truth they would not allow the war to go on.

Again, thank you for your contribution, and regards from Cora.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Webster  
Barbara Webster

P.S. we are sending the letter to  
bank which you enclosed on to  
Hanoi today.

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

**with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam**

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

**CABLE ADDRESS:**  
COLIAFAM

April 14, 1970

**Co-chairmen:**  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

**Treasurer:**  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

**Committee**  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Folk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Gerdos  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kellich  
Gweneth Macdonald  
Prof. Bee Scitman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks so much for your thoughtful letter of April 5.

First, your letter and birthday card to Mark went by hand to Vietnam with an anti-war delegation which just left for a week's visit there. I too hope he will get the card. I was delighted to learn from CBS that both Mark and Bill Mayhew are part of a Swedish documentary film recently acquired by Walter Cronkite. I look forward to seeing it, and "seeing" them again!

We too had high hopes for this year. The widening of hostilities into Laos and Cambodia, however, is certainly no indication of the Administration's interest in bringing the war to an end. I understand your position, and, of course, I cannot speak for the North Vietnamese.

Since I was in North Vietnam and saw what the four years of bombing caused, I can also understand their position though. What I don't understand is why Washington continues to rain death and destruction on Vietnam which also raises the toll of American lives. We should get together for a lengthier discussion than a letter permits sometime, even a telephone conversation.

As for your proposal to visit North Vietnam, we have had this request from other families as well, but doubt the possibility of such an

undertaking. However, we shall inform the Solidarity Committee; we have no way of making any assumptions at this time as to the feasibility of such a trip.

For your son, a very happy birthday!

Sincerely,

*Cora Weiss*

Cora Weiss

P.S. Would you mind if we excerpted a sentence or two from your letters to use, along with others, in a story being written about our Committee's work for which the author would like a smattering of families' reactions. We of course will not allow the use of any names, yours or any others. Could you call us (collect) at your earliest convenience if this would be all right with you? Thank you.

C.



COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

With Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam  
365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016 (212) 755-1234

80128122  
674

Dear Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED]

We are enclosing a letter to you from [REDACTED] written from a camp of detention in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The letter is forwarded to you through the newly formed Committee of Liaison of which we are members.

This letter, along with 50 others, was recently handed to Louis Schneider by Vietnamese authorities in Hanoi, and he mailed them to us from Hong Kong. This was in line with a system for handling such letters which has been opened up to our Detention by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The Committee of Liaison is composed of individuals active in the American peace movement and opposed to the U.S. military intervention in Vietnam. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam has decided to use our Committee as a channel for communication between the captured airmen in detention camps in North Vietnam and their relatives in the United States.

Please excuse the fact that this letter is dictated rather than typed on letterhead. We are a new committee and we want you to receive the enclosed without delay. Therefore we are mailing this letter immediately without waiting for printed letterhead and envelope.

We shall send you further information within the next few days regarding the liaison services our Committee is now able to perform.

In closing we wish to express the deep hope that the U.S. government will come to its senses, withdraw its armed forces from Vietnam, and thus make it possible for the families, both American and Vietnamese which have been separated as a result of this cruel war, to be reunited.

Sincerely yours,  
For the Committee of Liaison

*Richard Fernandez*  
Richard Fernandez  
Clarey and Layman  
Concerned About Vietnam

*Stewart Maclean*  
Stewart Maclean  
American Friends  
Service Committee

*Ethel Taylor*  
Ethel Taylor  
Woman's Strike  
for Peace

Other members of the Committee are: David Dellinger, Cora Weiss, Rennie Davis, Anne Bennett, Ben Schwartz, Maggie Goddard, Trudi Young, Steve Walliwell, Barbara Webster

COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

(212) 765-1490

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

April 20, 1970

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Coro Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchtler  
\*Minnie Gendron  
Steve Halliwell  
Frank Harold Katish  
Stewart Macdonald  
Prof. Ben Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Rev. Richard Fernandez, a member of the Committee of Liaison, returned today from a two-week trip to Laos and North Vietnam. He brought back the enclosed letter along with 201 others from prisoners being held in North Vietnam.

While there, Rev. Fernandez held a lengthy interview with three pilots, Cdr. Robert Schweitzer, Cdr. Walter Wilber and Lt. Col. Edison Miller. He also was advised by North Vietnamese authorities that families should write letters monthly on the enclosed air-letter forms. We are therefore sending several to you at this time and will send more with subsequent mail.

We are of course very pleased to be able to forward this letter to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Steven E. Halliwell*  
Steven E. Halliwell

**COMMITTEE OF LIAISON**

*with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam*

365 West 42nd Street New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

(212) 765-1490

Co-chairmen:  
Dove Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

May 13, 1970

Dear friend:

Today we received two packages of letters which we have been expecting from prisoners held in North Vietnam. The total number of letters in both packages was 155. Although the packages were mailed a month apart, they both arrived here today.

We are very happy to send herewith the letter addressed to you.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Webster*  
Barbara Webster

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Modeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Gaddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

BS 100-41237

In 1967 STEVEN HALLIWELL served as Assistant National Secretary of SDS and also was elected to the National Interim Committee and National Administrative Committee of SDS.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1.

FOI ~ 81 ~ 67 c Date 10/16/70

[REDACTED] Massachusetts, advised that her son [REDACTED] was a POW somewhere in North Vietnam; and as she had been unable to contact him, in mid winter or early spring 1970, she had contacted, by telephone, RUSSELL JOHNSON of the American Friends Service Committee, Cambridge, Massachusetts to solicit his assistance. She noted that she and her mother like JOHNSON are Quakers, and her son at one time had attended a religious retreat at Boston University which was also attended by JOHNSON. JOHNSON had suggested that she write or telephone DAVE DELLINGER or CORA WEISS of the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM), located at 365 West 42nd Street, New York City, New York. She subsequently telephonically spoke with both DELLINGER and WEISS who had suggested she write a letter to her son and mail it to them in New York City following which they would forward it to her son. They had also indicated that she would likely receive a reply from her son through the same means. She had complied with their suggestion and sent a letter to DELLINGER's New York Office and within a month received a reply from her son. She has been receiving a letter on the average of one every two months from her son, and the contents of his letters indicate he is receiving all the letters and packages that she sends to him.

She has offered DELLINGER and WEISS money, but they have declined her offer.

Other than the telephone call, she has had no personal contacts with representatives of COLIFAM; and she has never been harassed or cajoled by representatives of COLIFAM.

On 10/8/70 at [REDACTED] Massachusetts File # BS 100-41237

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 10/9/70

BS 100-41237

2.

*PO 12-12-2  
670*

Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that she knows of no other relatives of POW's who are being assisted by the above committee. She further stated that she would not testify against DELLINGER, WEISS or COLIFAM as she is greatly appreciative of the assistance by COLIFAM in her finally being able to correspond with her son.

Mrs. [REDACTED] made available a copy of a letter received from COLIFAM enclosing a letter from her son. She advised that she had no other correspondence from COLIFAM available.

# COMMITTEE OF LIAISON

with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam

365 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036

CABLE ADDRESS:  
COLIAFAM

(212) 765-1490

Co-chairmen:  
Dave Dellinger  
Cora Weiss

May 11, 1970

Treasurer:  
Mrs. Anne Bennett

Committee  
Richard J. Barnett  
Rennie Davis  
Madeline Duckles  
Prof. Richard Falk  
Rev. Richard Fernandez  
Norman Fruchter  
\*Maggie Geddes  
Steve Halliwell  
Prof. Donald Kalish  
Stewart Meacham  
Prof. Bea Seitzman  
Prof. Franz Schurmann  
Ethel Taylor  
\*Barbara Webster  
Trudi Young

\*staff

Dear friend:

A delegation of anti-war activists has just returned from a 10-day trip to Hanoi. Charlotte Bunche-Weeks, Jerry Schwinn, Frank Joyce and Elizabeth Martinez brought 47 letters from prisoners with them and we are very happy to forward yours today.

They also brought out additional suggestions for items which could be included in packages which we thought might be useful to you. Vitamins, minerals and protein are high on the list. Tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, body powder, foot powder, hard candies, coffee, sweeteners, tobacco, gum, instant breakfast, powdered sweet drinks, instant chocolate drink, tinned ham, peanut butter, cheese spreads, playing cards, travel chess-checkers sets, pipes, pipe cleaners. These are merely suggestions and packages, of course, are not limited to these items.

The arrival of this mail brings the number of letters from prisoners sent out since December to 861.

Sincerely,

*Cora Weiss*  
Cora Weiss

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FOI 81-2-62c  
Date 12/17/70

1.

Mrs. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Massachusetts, advised as follows:

Her son [REDACTED] was shot down in Vietnam during July 1968, and was considered missing in action until a Lieutenant FRISHMAN, one of three released Prisoners of War (POW), in a press interview in August 1969 identified [REDACTED] as one of the POW's in North Vietnam. She subsequently received her first letter from him during the Christmas week of 1969, a letter dated November 1969, and brought back to the United States from North Vietnam by a delegation of three women from the Women Strike for Peace who had visited Hanoi, North Vietnam and talked with various POW's. In this regard CORA WEISS, one of the three, had telephonically contacted her from the West Coast just before Christmas 1969 to advise that one of the POW's interviewed by the delegation had been Mrs. [REDACTED] son [REDACTED] and that he was in good health and spirit. The remainder of the conversation with WEISS was in a friendly vein concerning her son [REDACTED] and during it Mrs. WEISS mentioned that the delegation had brought back letters from the POW's, one of which was from [REDACTED] which Mrs. [REDACTED] could expect to receive shortly in the mail.

About a week later she received another letter from her son [REDACTED] which had been mailed from Hanoi via regular channels and was apparently the first letter that he had been allowed to write as it was dated in October 1969.

During January 1970, she received a form letter from the Committee of Liaison with Families of Servicemen Detained in North Vietnam (COLIFAM) dated January 1970, and headed "Information Sheet" which

FOI 81-2-62c  
On 12/14/70 at [REDACTED] Massachusetts File # BS 100-41237  
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 12/15/70



BS 100-41237

2.

advised of the background and formation of the committee. Subsequently in early 1970, she wrote one or two letters to her son and sent them to COLIFAM for forwarding, but received no indication that her son had received them. She has not since that time utilized services of COLIFAM to send her monthly letters to her son but rather sends them through normal mailing procedures. She does so she stated as it is her understanding that COLIFAM holds letters received until a good sized package of letters is made up before transmittal, and while she knows that her individual mail delivery to her son is slow she feels the transmittal of many letters at one time by the committee would be extremely slow as all would have to be censored at Hanoi before being passed on to the POW's. FOI 281  
62

In April 1970 she received a form letter from the committee enclosing a letter from her son [REDACTED] which was dated in March 1970. In September 1970 she again received a form letter from the committee enclosing another letter from her son, this one being dated May 1, 1970. This latter letter was the last correspondence she has received to date from COLIFAM.

On each occasion of receipt of correspondence from COLIFAM, she has sent them letters of acknowledgment.

Her contacts or knowledge of the committee have been limited to the above. She has never been harassed or cajoled by the committee and other than the one phone call from Mrs. WEISS has had no personal contact with any representatives of the committee. She has never sent any money to the committee or been solicited to do so.

BS 100-41237

3.

In her opinion COLIFAM and its representatives are acting merely to be helpful and to bring some happiness to relatives of POW's, and she is most grateful for any assistance they have furnished her to date in corresponding with her son and what they might provide in the future. Further in this regard, in noting that the first letter she received from her son since he was declared missing in action was sent to her by a now member of COLIFAM, CORA WEISS, she would not willingly testify in any matter against the committee.

BS 100-41237

EO 12812-2  
b2c

It is to be noted that the mentioned January 1970, form letter from COLIFAM received by Mrs. [REDACTED] was identical to that received by Mrs. [REDACTED] and set out earlier.

Women Strike for Peace (WSP) is a national women's organization which has demonstrated against nuclear testing, the war in Vietnam and the draft. WSP further has demonstrated against the military industrial complex, chemical-biological warfare experiments, the administration's proposed ABM System and suppression of G.I.'s in the Army.

Committee of Liaison With  
Families of Servicemen Detained  
in North Vietnam (COLIFAM)

APPENDIX

1.

LIBERATION MAGAZINE

"Liberation" Magazine (LM) is self-described as an independent monthly with offices at 339 Lafayette Street, New York, New York. A "Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation" was published in the November, 1963 issue. It listed the Publisher and Editor of the magazine as DAVE DELLINGER. The circulation was given as 10,000.

The following comments appeared in a leaflet distributed by LM in May, 1963:

"Since its inception in 1956, Liberation has played an active and creative role in the growth of the new radicalism in the United States. From civil rights to black liberation, from 'ban the bomb' to the movement to end the war in Vietnam, Liberation has been vital. Its radical critique of American society and its emphasis on democratic and direct action against the inequalities and injustice of our present social structure have inspired radicals, young and old."

"In addition, Liberation will continue to carry articles and discussions written by and to community organizers, student and non-student activists, educators, economists and social scientists - of interest to anybody concerned with building a radical and nonviolent movement that will bring a fundamental change to the existing 'order.'"

On May 14, 1963, a source advised that during a speech in New York, New York, on May 10, 1963, DAVE DELLINGER identified himself as a pacifist. He stated it was necessary to abolish the cause of war, which was Capitalism. He advocated a Communist society and said, "I am a Communist," but further stated he was not a Soviet type Communist."

## APPENDIX

### 1.

#### STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

Students for a Democratic Society, commonly known as SDS, came into existence at a founding convention held during June, 1962, at Port Huron, Michigan. From an initial posture of "participatory democracy," Marxist-Leninist ideology of various shadings became predominant during 1968-1969 with debate centering on how best to create a revolutionary youth movement. SDS moved from involvement in the civil rights struggle to an anti-Vietnam war position to advocacy of a militant anti-imperialist line linking up the oppressed peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America with the black liberation movement in the United States. All major factions within SDS embrace Marxism-Leninism and identify internationally with China, Cuba and North Vietnam as countries leading the worldwide struggles against the United States. However, the Soviet Union was regarded as imperialist and with the Communist Party, United States of America, "revisionist" in nature.

SDS operated under a national constitution which called for an annual National Convention (NC) and quarterly National Council meetings wherein programs were initiated and debated. Three national officers were elected annually with a National Interim Committee to run the organization. Regional offices and college chapters elected delegates to the national meetings but each functioned independently on local matters. Its official publication "Fire" (formerly "New Left Notes") last appeared in December, 1969.

Internal factionalism of serious proportions developed during 1968-1969 and the following three factions evolved as a result of a split at the June, 1969, NC: Weatherman, Worker Student Alliance (WSA), and Revolutionary Youth Movement (RYM). The effect of the split on SDS chapters throughout the country was divisive. Some aligned with one or the other of the three major factions. Others, unable to identify with any faction, disassociated with SDS completely and changed names.

The SDS national office in recent years was located at 1608 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois. It was closed in February, 1970.



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Boston, Massachusetts  
January 6, 1971

Title COMMITTEE OF LIAISON WITH  
FAMILIES OF SERVICEMEN  
DETAINED IN NORTH VIETNAM (COLIFAM)

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS

Reference report of SA [REDACTED]  
dated and captioned as above at Boston.

EO 1-81-2-  
b7c

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities  
are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable  
information in the past.